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Foreign, Defense Ministers Meet, Prepare 'Memorandum'

AU3008124494 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 27 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "We Are Ready for Rapprochement"]

[Text] At the CIS headquarters in Minsk, plenipotentiary representatives of foreign affairs and defense ministries of CIS countries have completed their work. Among the documents they prepared are the draft memorandum "Main Trends in the Integrational Development of the CIS," which will be submitted for the consideration of CIS leaders at their meeting to be held at the beginning of September.

Officials Discuss 'Integrated Development' of CIS

MM3008131594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 1

[Report from PRAVDA and ITAR-TASS roundup under the "News in Brief" rubric: "Reviving the CIS"]

[Text] A long-term plan for the integrated development of the CIS was discussed at CIS headquarters during a two-day conference of representatives of the CIS states' foreign and defense ministries. The plan contains sections on economic cooperation (the creation of a free trade zone and customs, currency, and payments unions) and on scientific and technical cooperation and cooperation in the military sphere (questions relating to peacemaking, the border sphere, and so forth). These documents will be submitted to the next session of the coordination and consultation committee and the heads of state, which is scheduled for 7 September, and then presented to the Council of Heads of State for ratification 8 October.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 31 Aug

LD3108051794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0503 GMT 31 Aug 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow 31 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Most Russian newspapers today lead with reports about the farewell ceremony for the Russian troops completing their withdrawal from Germany which is to be attended by Russian President Boris Yeltsin today.

"The withdrawal of Russian troops is a natural, timely step," the Russian president said in an interview with INTERFAX news agency published in the newspaper IZVESTIYA today. "We are drawing the final line under both the post-war and the post- confrontational periods. In the history of Russia and Germany, in the history of Europe an epoch of enmity, distrust and suspicion is drawing to a close", Yeltsin said.

The Russian president expressed resolute disagreement with those who think that the withdrawal of troops from Germany will give rise to problems in relations between Russia and Germany. "Russia and Germany have no considerable unresolved problems and differences. In the recent years, our relations acquired a stable, positive character."

Boris Yeltsin expressed confidence that no "third forces" would be able to undermine the developing fruitful cooperation between Russia and Germany." [punctuation as received]

"Successfully and strictly in accordance with plan, an unprecedented relocation of troops is being completed," says KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. According to this army newspaper, more than half a million people have left Germany over the past three years, including 338 thousand troops and 111 thousand units of military equipment.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA draws the readers' attention to the fact that Boris Yeltsin will be the first foreign leader visiting the German capital these days to lay a wreath at the memorial to the victims of war and violence in Unter den Linden street in central Berlin.

The newspaper recalls that before the unveiling of the memorial, activists of the anti-war movement objected to the text inscribed on the memorial plaque because the term "victims of war" covers also the Nazi soldiers and officers who fell in the Second World War. The newspaper PRAVDA reminds the readers that President Bill Clinton of the United States declined the "honour of being the first to unveil the memorial in Berlin".

"Russian troops are leaving Germany. The post-war period is over. It is necessary to do everything not to let this period turn into a pre-war time," says NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. "Russia is now unable to be a rival, a counterbalance or an equal partner of the United States which remains the only superpower," the newspaper says. It believes that under present conditions Russia's foreign political efforts should focus on adjusting interaction with West Europe, primarily with Germany.

"Our cooperation is designed for the twenty-first century," a headline in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA caps Russian President Boris Yeltsin's replies to questions from the Chinese official news agency XINHUA ahead of Chinese Chairman Jiang Zemin's forthcoming visit to Russia. "Russia welcomes the continuation of friendly contacts with China, including at the summit level," Yeltsin said in the interview. "Relations between our two countries can be characterised as goodneighbourly and constructive," he said.

Boris Yeltsin's interview with XINHUA is also published in the newspaper TRUD.

The russian press continues to focus on the situation in the Chechen Republic. "The opposition in Chechnya is rallying and declaring that Dudayev's days at power are numbered," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA says. The newspaper stresses that Dzhokhar Dudayev's main error was in his "unconditional reliance on force", and that his mistake is particularly strongly felt now when the number of his supporters inside the Chechen republics "is hardly more than a few hundred".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA for its part reports that the opposition "gave Dudayev eight days to resign of his own will". According to IZVESTIYA, important events are expected in the capital of Chechnya on August 31. "The field commanders are blocking Groznyy", PRAVDA reports and adds that the pendulum of confrontation between the Dudayev regime and the opposition forces "has almost reached the point beyond which the exchange of mutual threats and intimidating manoeuvres can evolve into an artillery duel".

At the same time, all newspapers seem to agree that it is difficult to predict the development of events in Chechnya after the fall of the Dudayev regime. "After toppling Dudayev, the opposition leaders will probably begin to settle accounts with each other," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA supposes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that "there is no denying that Ruslan Khasbulatov is the most authoritative figure in Chechnya at present", but recalls that he is highly unacceptable to Russian leaders.

PRAVDA suggests that Khasbulatov would rather prefer to be "a Chechen Deng Xiaoping", without occupying any official post.

ROSSIYSKIE VESTI carries an extensive interview with the presidential chief of staff, Sergey Filatov, about relations between the federal and local authorities in Russia. He says that the component parts of the Federation are "the main components of Russia's constitutional field".

In an interview with the same newspaper, Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray laments that the Finance Ministry fails to fulfil in time important government instructions. He points to the recent failure to deliver necessary stocks of food and other goods to Russia's far north.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA recalls that a new school year begins in Russia on September one. It publishes a collection of reports about the extremely high prices of clothes for schoolchildren, exercise books and other school things, and about the extremely low money grants paid to higher school students, often with considerable delays.

PRAVDA stresses the need to foster patriotic sentiments in school students.

Azerbaijan's Parliament Chairman Rasul Guliyev expressed in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA the hope that the Karabakh war would end soon. "We have never been so close to peace," he said.

Reportage on Troop Pullout From Germany

Yeltsin Speech at Berlin Ceremony

LD3108110994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0831 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Speech by President Boris Yeltsin at ceremony in Berlin's Schauspielhaus marking the withdrawal of Russian troops—live]

[Text] Esteemed Mr. Federal President, esteemed Mr. Federal Chancellor, dear compatriots, representatives of the Western Group of Forces, veterans of the Great Patriotic War, ladies and gentlemen.

This date, 31 August 1994, will undoubtedly go down in history—the history of Russia, of Germany, and of Europe as a whole. The last Russian soldier is leaving German soil.

Half a century ago the victorious troops stayed here. But it was not with the purpose of enslaving or seizing someone else's land. The routing of the criminal nazi clique had to be completed. As a result of the longest and bloodiest war, Europe was saved from Hitlerism. The world escaped enslavement, and this is the greatest and the most important good deed of the 20th century.

We, the descendants, are eternally indebted to the soldier- liberator. Through self-sacrifice and his own sufferings, through sacred self-denial and heroism, he averted a mortal danger to humankind. Here in Berlin, the poisonous root of unparalelled evil was wrenched out, Hitler's monstrous designs were shattered.

We do not have the right to forget that the nazis wiped off the face of the Earth many cities and entire states, that the nazis set as their aim the destruction of great cultures.

We do not have the right to forget that nazism sentenced to death hundreds of millions of people and that these sentences were carried out cold-bloodedly.

Hitler's bloody regime created a monstrous industry of mass murders, the physical extermination of children and old people, of women and men.

The so-called guilt of the victims was defined either by their belonging to races considered inferior by Hitler's standards or by the fact that they lived on territories which did not take Hitler's fancy.

But there is another thing that we do not have the right to forget. It was Hitlerism that pushed Germans, the German nation to fulfill the role of executor of these criminal deeds. It pushed them to carry them out. The nazi regime pushed it to commit monstrous, deadly sins. It would not be possible to atone for them by any penitence or sacrifices. Sooner of later the most heavy burden of that sin inevitably would have crushed Germany. It would have been an eternal curse on its people. The most terrible catastrophe which could have befallen mankind did not happen, thank God! The nazi regime was destroyed and history did not come to a halt.

The blood spilt by the Soviet, the Russian soldiers, the servicemen of the allied armies, members of the resistance movement, the partisans, the German antifascists, by all who did not spare themselves or their lives for the sake of the common victory is equally dear to us.

Whoever today tries to assess the course and the results of the war, and in whatever way, the historic truth is inexorable. It demands that we remember that all the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition contributed to the victory. It requires that we remember that hundreds of millions of people throughout the world pinned their hopes of victory on the Soviet army. It was in Russia that the aggressor was smashed, and the elite of the Wehrmacht—its might—pulverized. We recall how costly the losses were. We do not presume to decide whose grief was worst, that of Russian or German mothers. When we are talking about widows and orphans, all comparison is quite simply blasphemous. [applause]

Dear fellow-countrymen, esteemed gentlemen! Russians in military greatcoats did not come to Germany to wipe it from the face of the Earth, to destroy the German people, or to turn them into servants of the Russians. History has proved this. Even in the period of the most severe trials and tribulations, Russia drew a clearcut distinction between ordinary Germans and the criminal clique which came to power in Germany. Russia believed in the future of this country, in its ability to revive its best humanistic traditions. But the path to this lay through the defeat of nazism in the predatory and unjust war which it unleashed. Like any defeat, it did not pass without trace. Hitler left the German people a terrible legacy—millions of dead and invalids, an economy in ruins, complete disruption of administration, a people who had lost all faith and hope.

Germany was in ruins. Its very name was discredited. Defeat ended in the division of the land of Germany. It was cut apart live by barbed wire and mine fields.

Only in 1990 did the two German states unite. The unification was peaceful, it did not claim a single human life, and Russia rejoices about this together with Germany.

The Russian soldiers are returning home today confident that a military threat to Russia will never again come from the German land. [applause]

The long post-war epoch is coming to an end. It was a difficult time, full of conflicts. Most of it, alas, was a period of confrontation. Several generations of our soldiers served in the Western Group of Troops. They stood at the border that divided the world into the West and the East, and Europe into two hostile political, idealogical, and military camps. It was a difficult discharging of military duty for the sake of peace on the continent, and it proved possible to preserve peace, not in least by their efforts. Thank you, thanks to them, thanks to our war veterans and to those that served for peace after them. Thank you. [applause]

A new stage has begun in relations between our countries. We look at it with hope and optimism which we feel, I must say frankly and honestly, because of the fruitful and large- scale activity of Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, with whom we are great friends. [applause]

Over the last few years Russia and Germany have come a very long way in developing genuine mutual understanding and cooperation. There is not, perhaps, a single area where positive changes have not been achieved. And this has been possible to a great degree thanks to the federal chancellor's personal contribution. I am sincerely grateful to you, dear Helmut, for your understanding of Russia, I stress understanding, and for the fact that your work promotes real rapprochement between our countries and our peoples. Thank you! [applause]

The new Russia and united Germany are striving today to define their place in a changed world. I believe that in a joint search we will again be able to see just how considerable the opportunities are for our cooperation.

The great German politician Bismarck wrote: It is not in our interests for the power of Russia to be shaken seriously and for a long time. Not sentiment but political calculation tells us that a powerful Russia will bring us greater friendship, that friendship with her is essential for us. This is very important. [applause]

History has more than once shown to what extent this statesman was accurate in his assessments and definitions. What has been achieved over the past years is just an insignificant part of the huge potential with which we are able to enrich one another. Even the cold war, even the notorious Berlin wall did not prevent the two German states, the FRG and the GDR, becoming leading partners of the former [Soviet] Union and now of Russia, in politics, in economics, and in trade. I am sure that now that the final reconciliation has taken place it is possible to make our relations not only as full as possible but also, and most importantly, warmer and more human. Then the broadest possible groups of the populations of Russia and Germany will be able to feel the real benefit of cooperation in their daily lives.

Because we have a tradition going back a thousand years of good and productive cooperation, because the profound fellow feeling our peoples have for each other is something we have in common, the mutual attraction of the great Russian and great German cultures, we have heard about this today and will be hearing more about this.

The future of Russian-German relations is indivisible from that of all Europe, whatever that may be in the third millennium. There are various ways of seeing what that may be. There are various scenarios going round for the future of the continent of Europe. These include some optimistic and some gloomy scenarios, but I am convinced that those which take as their base stable and long- lasting cooperation between Russia and Germany and all European states have the best chance.

Our countries are major powers in the continent. They have a significant influence on the processes developing in Europe. Together it is easier for us to create a new security architecture. Together it is simpler to overcome conflicts, and to pursue the path of disarmament, the creation of a single economic space, and the solution of ecological problems.

A truly peaceful Europe cannot but be united. It cannot but be united, and we are convinced of that.

We have been consistent in stressing the need to draw up collectively a strategy to create a common security and cooperation space. It is time to stop arguing about who won the Cold War—was it the East or the West? It was the idea of European cooperation and the democratic principles of the CSCE that carried the day.

Today the structures of the CSCE have necessary potential to win peace for all times too. Peace for all times—it was bequeathed to the future generations by that great European, Immanuel Kant. I am convinced that the time for this grandiose idea of peace forever has come. [applause]

I have no doubt that Russian-German cooperation will bring us all closer to the realization of this idea. Russia understands it as stability, prosperity, and security for all Europeans.

At the forthcoming all-European meeting in Budapest we must make fundamental decisions. They should significantly widen the horizons for cooperation between the peoples of our continent and allow them to enter the 21st century without fear and in hope.

Russia believes that the CSCE is capable of coping with the trials of our time. It can realistically guarantee security and stability all the way from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

To all those leaving Germany and to those staying here, I have this to say: The peoples of Europe, who remember the past, who are united around common democratic values, will not allow another split to happen in Europe ever again. It is our common sacrifices that will not allow us to do it. [applause]

The withdrawal of the Western Group of Troops from Germany was another test for the durability of relations between Germany and Russia. Many thousands of people—soldiers, politicians, diplomats, financiers, builders, transportation workers, and members of many other professions—participated in events unprecedented in scale for both sides. Their joint work was a vast school for practical Russian-German partnership and cooperation.

Thanks to mutual goodwill, trust, and regard for one another's interests, we have managed to solve rapidly a problem which seemed insurmountable. In a short time, a group of almost half a million troops with weapons, equipment, and ammunition has been moved thousands of kilometers, and all of this while preserving adequate combat readiness, order, and military dignity.

I know that not everything has gone smoothly. There have been and there still remain problems. This makes the contribution of the Russian soldiers all the more significant. Under difficult conditions they have shown loyalty to the best traditions of the Russian army—a high level of discipline, and devotion to duty.

Of course, your own participation, Mr. Kohl, and Germany's significant financial contribution have also assisted the successful completion of the troop withdrawal. The money is being used to carry out large-scale programs to construct housing in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine. It is going toward the transportation of troops and property, and the retraining of former servicemen.

In general, the Germany authorities at all levels have from the very beginning striven to create a benevolent atmosphere around our garrisons.

The level of trust and mutual understanding achieved during the withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces is an inestimable contribution to the molding of a qualitatively new Russian-German relationship. We have no right to squander this capital of friendship and liking for each other. [applause]

Hundreds of thousands of servicemen and career soldiers, as well as members of their families, have already left Germany and are now living in various parts of Russia and other CIS countries, both serving in the military and, as they say, in civilian life. I am sure that these people have brought away with them good feelings about your country, Germany, about its people, the culture. They are bound to pass on this spiritual learning to many of their fellow citizens. I hope that you, too, will be left with good memories of the Russian military. I am sure that you will for ever retain good memories of the Russian soldiers. This hope is the inspiration for the whole atmosphere of today and the cordiality with which for the past few months you have been seeing off home the Berlin and other garrisons of the Western Group of Forces.

The period of almost four years it has taken to withdraw the troops has been a time of establishing direct contacts between the armed forces of both countries. A good foundation has been laid for further beneficial cooperation between the Bundeswehr and the Russian army. This cooperation is now entering a new phase: regular dialogue at the level of defense ministries, exchange of military academy students, joint exercises, and a whole range of diverse links through military channels should become an important element in Russian-German ties and an important component of the Europe-wide process.

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen, and friends! The postwar period in Russian-German relations is now being replaced by a period of friendship and cooperation. May today's celebrations be an occasion carrying forward the baton of remembrance and hope into the future.

We believe in a united and renewed Germany. We know that democratic values have firmly taken root here, the values which in their very essence rule out violence, aggression, and abuse of other peoples' rights. Russia, too, is going through a process of radical renewal. It is firmly advancing along the path of democratic reforms. Over the last few years the world has had more than one chance to see this. Never again will such a Russia and such a Germany fight each other! [applause]

The whole world will shortly be marking the 50th anniversary of victory in World War II. This will be a celebration of the triumph of good, a celebration of the liberation of Europe, of the saving of all peoples, and of all mankind. Great sacrifices were made in the name of peace, freedom, and democracy. We are eternally in debt to those who fell, and the best memorial to them will be a worthy life for the present and future generations of the German and Russian peoples. Thank you. [applause]

Yeltsin Speech at Wreath-Laying Ceremony

LD3108114794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1027 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Speech by President Boris-Yeltsin at wreath-laying ceremony in Berlin—live]

[Text] Dear veterans of the Great Patriotic War! Dear fighters of the Russian armed forces! I express my thanks to the soldiers, officers and generals of the Western Group of Forces for carrying out military service and for not having brought shame to the Russian land and for returning to the motherland with honor.

Esteemed Federal Chancellor! Esteemed servicemen of the Bundeswehr! Ladies and Gentlemen! Today the people of Berlin are seeing Russian soldiers off home, they are seeing them off as liberators and now as friends! Almost half a century ago fighters of the Soviet army took Berlin by storm to rout the Nazi totalitarian regime of Hitler.

Never before on the planet had there been more criminal, more bloodthirsty and sinister forces. Never had there been such a threat to the existence of human society. Mankind throughout the planet had never come closer to the abyss than in that war which took place almost 50 years ago. After all, the state policy of Hitlerite Germany was genocide, plunder, vandalism, and desecration of mankind's holy places and values. At that precise moment mankind faced the question of to be or not to be. We answered it on the battlefields, choosing between freedom and an overseer's whip, between life and the crematoria of the concentration camps.

Our soldiers made this choice. The whole inconceivable burden of war lay on their shoulders. They did not spare their lives to stop the murderers, to tear deadly weapons from their hands, to defend their country, their homes, their families, their children - and not only their own.

For Russia, that war was the Great Patriotic War. We fought for great aims and for these we made irreplaceable sacrifices on the altar of the motherland - for the scars of the war are still felt to this day in practically every Russian family.

When war and victory are spoken of, every one of us feels at the same time, joy and grief, pride and sorrow.

The bright memory of millions of our fellow citizens who fell in the battlefields and were tortured in captivity, who overtaxed themselves and who ruined their health, this memory is sacred for every Russian.

We have not forgotten our allies, although they were not invited to these celebrations, and we assess highly the contribution made by our allies to victory. The second front was opened on 6 June 1944.

Honor and glory to the heroes of the countries which made up the anti-Hitler coalition who gave their lives to bring the day of universal victory closer. Honor and glory to those in the resistance, to the partisans, to the German anti-fascists. By their selfless struggle, they helped the planet to be cleansed of the brown plague. Our profound gratitude to the citizens of the occupied countries and territories, to the citizens of Germany who did not take the glorious new order to their hearts, who did not sell their souls to the devil of national socialism and who during those sombre years lived not by lies but by their consciences.

Many years have passed since those time. Germany has changed so much. The world has changed so much. But the shadow of that war has clouded the years passed. It is finally time to turn over this tragic page of history. And not to consign it to oblivion, humanity is obliged to preserve the memory of everything which happened then, otherwise those awful events might happen again.

Today, on the precise day agreed on in the treaty which German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Russian president signed, the withdrawal of Russian forces from Germany is drawing to a close. The fact that on this day we have gathered right here in Treptow Park, by the memorial to the Soldier-Liberator, is profoundly symbolic. I ask you to remember the outstanding Soviet commanders, above all the great Marshal Zhukov. Battles of unprecedented scale were won thanks to their military genius.

Let us remember kindly those who did not return from the battlefields. Let us remember the tens of millions who were killed, tormented and destroyed. They will lie forever in German soil. They departed this life at the peak of their strength. They bestowed the right to freedom and happiness not only on their own people but also on the German people and the entire world itself. Let's do them justice - without the feat they achieved today's Europe would not exist. A prosperous Germany would not exist.

On behalf of all Russians, on behalf of Russia, and on my own behalf as president, today I say: Sleep in peace! Your names will be gratefully remembered by your descendants, and the tragedy of that war will not be repeated.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to those citizens of Germany who look after the graves of those who fell. Today we are seeing for ourselves that this is so. Thank you. I trust this will continue in the future.

A few more hours and today will come to an end, the last day of the past. But I am certain that through our joint efforts it could also be the first day of the future, a future with no place left for violence and in which our eternal hopes for peace and mutual understanding between the world's peoples will become real.

Today is a day of final reconciliation. This is a difficult but essential step, especially for the veterans of that war. For 50 years now dreams of that war have continued to come unbidden; for 50 years the pain of wounds sustained at the front has nagged us whenever the weather is bad. And for this long half century veterans have carried with them the undying memory of friends who fell at the front. And they will remain faithful to that memory to the end of their lives. For veterans reconciliation is a lofty spiritual feat, one which they undertake in the name of peace and for the sake of their children and grandchildren.

Young Russians and young Germans: make yourselves worthy of that feat. Destiny has spared you from engaging in mortal encounters with one another. And likewise be worthy of the political reconciliation between Russia and Germany. How relations between our countries will be tomorrow depends on all of us, on our common wisdom.

Russian citizens in military uniform have carried our their military duty in Germany with honor. And I say on behalf of all of them to German citizens: Peace and calm to your home.

On behalf of all the people of Russia, I say: May hostility and resentment remain things of the past. May the future of Russia and Germany be cloudless and clear.

The fighters of the Western Group of Forces have earned the deep regard and great gratitude of the entire Russian people, of the president.

Your homeland is proud of you, is awaiting you, needs you! Welcome to your native soil! [applause]

Yeltsin Interview Before Arrival

LD3008183894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1800 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin was speaking in an exclusive interview with Interfax news agency before his flight to Germany on Tuesday to attend a seeing-off ceremony for departing Russian troops.

QUESTION: You have repeatedly said that a new era will set in after Russian pullout from Germany. Don't you fear that the winding up of Russian military presence may weaken Moscow's positions in relations with that country?

YELTSIN: The reasons why our troops have been stationed in Germany for five decades are well-known. These include allied resolutions of the war and postwar period as well as inter-state treaties and agreements. This is the legal aspect of the matter. However, there is also a political side to it.

Immediately after the victory over Nazi Germany, the allied presence there was designed to rule out the very possibility of a revival by Germany's militarism and its aggressive plans. Later, with the onset of the cold war period German territory had become the arena of confrontation between two political systems.

But the situation has changed dramatically. German threat does no longer exist. The resource-draining cold war period is over. That is why Russian troop withdrawals has become a natural and long- overdue step to take. We are drawing a line both under the postwar and post-confrontational periods. This brings an end to the era of feuding and suspicions in the history of Russia and Germany and that of Europe.

I absolutely disagree with those who think that problems will arise in Russia's relationship with Germany following troop withdrawals from that country. By contrast, further Russian military presence without any reasonable grounds may have led to a worsening of those relations.

There are no big unresolved issues or differences between Russia and Germany. Our relationship has developed in a sustained and positive way in recent years. Russia and Germany are no longer enemies, let alone adversaries, but are partners in many areas. Our joint effort has helped to set up a solid groundwork for taking bilateral co-operation on to a new level. There is a political will by the leaders of both countries and a desire by Russians and Germans to achieve just that. This will be in the interests of both countries and European peace and stability.

QUESTION: Many in Russia who are keen to see the promotion of bilateral relations believe there are third forces who are not interested in seeing an improved relationship between the two countries. There are speculations saying the latest noise over nuclear smuggling from Russia into Germany was aimed at marring Russian-German relations. What do you make of such assessments?

YELTSIN: International relations are not limited by a relationship between two states. One or two capitals on the world map may not always like to see a warming of the political climate in its other part. This happened in the past and will happen in future. This is a usual thing.

But I think it will be far-fetched to try to link this sort of mood with the nuclear scandal.

And yet, the media noise over the nuclear theme did emerge and is being fanned up. Why?

Possibly because it helps push into the background and "forget" about earlier publications in the foreign press about the production of kilograms of unaccounted for weapons grade plutonium at nuclear installations elsewhere.

One other reason is longer range economic interests by companies operating in this sphere.

I am sure no third forces will be able to undermine the ongoing fruitful co-operation between Russia and Germany.

Yeltsin Speaks to Journalists

LD3008182994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin left Moscow today for Berlin to take part in the celebrations on the occasion of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany. Before he left Boris Yeltsin met journalists at Vnukovo airport.

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] I believe this is a historic event. Why so? You understand, there was the cold war, well, first a hot one, then a cold one. After that there was a long period of our troops, along with the troops of other states, being stationed in Germany. Finally we agreed on the schedule for the withdrawal, and I must say that the German side fulfilled its part of the obligations concerning financing, and we fulfilled our obligations precisely to the day on the withdrawal. So now tomorrow the last soldier will be withdrawn. I believe that this is both for Russia and for Germany, for the two friendly countries, well, I would say that the two countries are as if becoming closer to each other. This is very important.

[Unidentified journalist] The Russian troops are leaving Germany and the American soldiers remain there. Does not this disturb a certain balance of nuclear power in Europe?

[Yeltsin] Well, one must discriminate here, which soldiers and in what units. Er, well, our soldiers remained there in accordance with an agreement which was signed, so to speak, and they remained. The American troops are NATO troops, so one must not compare them, must not compare them. So far we are not in NATO, but we might be, it is a question of time. But today we are not in

NATO. The Americans are in NATO, and the American NATO troops are there, the NATO troops. That is the great difference and one cannot make comparisons here.

To further develop our friendly relations with Germany, our partnership with Germany, the troops must be withdrawn to the last soldier, as will happen tomorrow.

[Journalists] Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Thank you. Goodbye. [end recording]

Yeltsin Interview on Troops, Plutonium

MM3008144994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 1

[Interview with President B.N. Yeltsin by INTERFAX agency especially for IZVESTIYA; date and place not given: "Boris Yeltsin: Era of Enmity Ending in European History"]

[Text] Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin has answered INTERFAX's questions in connection with the Russian troops' withdrawal from Germany. The interview was carried especially for IZVESTIYA.

[INTERFAX] You have repeatedly stated that a new era will dawn in bilateral relations following the Russian troop withdrawal from Germany. How do you view those relations, and are you not afraid that the absence of Russian troops from Germany will weaken Russia's positions vis-a-vis that country?

[Yeltsin] The reasons why our troops were in Germany for five decades are well known. There were allied decisions during wartime and in the postwar era, and interstate treaties and agreements. That is the legal side of the matter. There was a political side too. Directly after the victory over the nazi regime, the presence of allied troops was designed to rule out the very possibility of the emergence of German militarism and aggressive intentions. Then, during the Cold War, German territory was the venue for military confrontation between two sociopolitical systems.

The situation has now fundamentally changed. There is no longer any threat to peace from Germany. The exhausting Cold War is over too. Consequently, the Russian troop withdrawal is a natural and timely step. We are simultaneously closing the final chapter on the postwar and postconfrontation periods. The era of enmity, mistrust, and suspicion in the history of Russia and Germany, in the history of Europe, is ending.

I resolutely disagree with those who believe that the Russian troop withdrawal will lead to problems in relations with Germany. On the contrary, their further presence without any reasonable justification for it would have inevitably led to a deteriorating relationship.

Russia and Germany have no significant unresolved problems or differences. In recent years our relations have become steadily positive. Russia and Germany are no longer enemies and are not even opponents—in many spheres we are partners. Our joint efforts have created good groundwork for moving our cooperation onto a qualitatively new footing. The political will for this exists on the part of the states' leaders and the desire is there on the part of Russians and Germans. This is in the interests of both countries and in the interests of peace and stability in Europe.

[INTERFAX] There is an opinion forming in public circles in Russia with an interest in the development of Russian-German relations that there are third parties which do not have an interest in improving relations between the two states. It has been assumed that the "fuss" over the loss of nuclear materials from Russia and Germany is one manifestation of the attempts to complicate bilateral relations. Do you share those views?

[Yeltsin] International relations are not limited to bilateral interstate ties. And on the multicolored map of the world you can always find one or two capitals which may not be happy about a warming in the political climate in another area. That has always been so. And it will continue to be. That is normal.

But linking these kinds of feelings to the plutonium scandal seems to me to be stretching a point.

Nonetheless, the fuss about this subject has indeed arisen and is continuing. Why is that?

Perhaps because it makes it possible to push into the background and "forget" about previous articles in the foreign press about the production at foreign installations in the nuclear weapons complex of unaccounted-for weapons-grade plutonium in amounts running into kilograms.

Another reason is the distant economic interests of firms working in this sphere. I am confident, however, that the developing fruitful cooperation between Russia and Germany will not be undermined by any "third parties."

Kozyrev, Shumeyko Comment

LD3008200494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1932 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Berlin August 30 TASS—Russian leaders consider the troops withdrawal from Germany to be a historic event in the Russian-German relations and in the world's development.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin described as "really historic" the withdrawal of the Russian Western group of troops from Germany upon his arrival in the Berlin airport. The president is expected to attend the troops' seeing-off ceremony.

"One cannot say today there are the winners and the losers. Russia and Germany have recently started to build genuinely partner relations as two friendly states and they will continue doing this," said the president.

In the opinion of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, the troops withdrawal "sums up a whole historical epoch related to the Second World War and the heroic deed of the Soviet people which made a weighty contribution to the victory over the fascism". Unfortunately, this epoch was also related to the dismal period of the Cold War, the minister told ITAR-TASS.

The history of Russian-German relations has many bright pages which are the token of future positive development of bilateral ties, he added. "I do not share fears that Germany and Russia will not be interested in each other after the troops withdrawal," said the minister.

"Russia has strictly fulfilled its obligations on troops withdrawal," said Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin. He hopes that the "Russian-German relations will be that of partners and friends, and positive achievements of the past years will not be lost".

Chairman of the Russian Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko described as "a world event" the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany. One should be encouraged by the end of the Berlin war and the troops withdrawal, but "being a citizen of great Russia, I have a dual feeling about the upcoming event. This was done hastily and many social problems of servicemen have not be solved. I think that the withdrawal period was too short and we have failed to prepare for the return of our soldiers and officers," said Shumeyko.

Speaking of the withdrawal completion, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Western group of forces Colonel-General Matvey Burlakov reminded that the group command, six armies, 22 divisions, 49 brigades and 42 separate regimes have been withdrawn within three years and eight months. A total of 546,000 people, including 338,000 servicemen, have returned from Germany, 123,000 units of materiel and armaments, 2,750,000 tones of material resources have been withdrawn.

"An international strategic operation on withdrawal of the Western group of forces has been completed," Burlakov told ITAR- TASS. It would have been impossible without high professionalism of the group personnel, coordinated actions and discipline, he added.

Filatov on Yeltsin, Kohl Meeting

LD3008210894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1435 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Berlin, 30 August—"The president leaves for Germany in a very good mood," Sergey Filatov, chief of the administration of the head of the Russian state, said at the airport. He arrived in Berlin today to participate in events devoted to the conclusion of the withdrawal of the Western group of troops from Germany. "Russia will join the European Council in 1995, and this is a good coincidence. The last day of the Russian troops in Germany draws a line under the postwar history of the development of our continent. We actively join in building the European house."

Asked by an ITAR-TASS correspondent if the problem of contraband nuclear materials was going to be discussed in the meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Helmuth Kohl, S. Filatov explained that "our special services have closed the book on that issue to a considerable extent." At the same time, we have our own specific problems, he said. "These are bad management, attempts to obtain money by any means, and organized crime. But if the German side raises this question we have an answer," Sergey Filatov said firmly.

Zhirinovskiy Opposes Troop Withdrawal

AU3008165294 Paris AFP in English 1612 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, Aug 30 (AFP)—Russian ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy on Tuesday [30 August] criticized Moscow's withdrawal of troops from Germany, one day before ceremonies marking the event in Berlin.

"We must withdraw our troops from the south, from Central Asia, but not from the West", the head of the Liberal Democratic Party told AFP on his return to Moscow after a Volga River cruise across Russia.

"The results of this government decision won't be long coming", said Zhirinovskiy, predicting a "crisis" in Russia this coming winter, particularly because of difficult living conditions for repatriated soldiers.

"There must be accommodation for them in houses, not in tents", he said, one day before the troop farewell ceremonies in Berlin to be attended by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Troop Commander's Report to Yeltsin

LD3108090294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0735 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Report by Colonel-General Matvey Burlakov, commander-in-chief of the Western Group of Forces in Germany, addressing Russian President Boris Yeltsin at ceremony in Berlin marking the departure of Russian troops from Germany—live]

[Text] Esteemed President of the Russian Federation and Supreme Commander of the Russian armed forces, esteemed Federal Chancellor of Germany, I report that the interstate treaty on the temporary stay and orderly withdrawal of Soviet troops from Germany has been fulfilled. The group's command, six armies consisting of 22 divisions, 49 brigades, and 42 separate regiments numbering 546,200 people have been withdrawn from

Germany into Russia and other Commonwealth countries over three years and eight months. Also, 123,629 units of equipment and armaments and 2,754,530 tons of material supplies have been removed, including 677,000 tons of ammunition.

The successful withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces was made possible thanks to the high standards of professional training, the combat and flying training of personnel and the good organization and discipline of the Western Group of Forces as well as the uninterrupted and clear leadership effected by Russian leaders and personally by the Russian defense minister, commanders and headquarters of the Western Group of Forces, the close interaction and cooperation with the Federal leadership, the leadership of laender, the Bundeswehr and state and public organizations and the great support from the German population.

The interstate strategic operation of withdrawing the Western Group of Forces has been completed. The moral and psychological state of the personnel is good. Personnel have arrived in Russia, have started combat training, and are settling down and ready to carry out tasks on the country's leadership orders. Colonel-General Burlakov herewith concludes his report.

Border Guards Fire Warning Shots at Japanese Fishing Boats

LD3108050094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0355 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Larisa Beloivan]

[Text] Vladivostok, 31 Aug—Russian frontiersmen's shots again rang out in the area of the South Kurils Ridge.

According to operational information received by ITAR-TASS at the duty office of the administration of the Pacific Frontier District, early this morning in the 200-mile Kuril zone about 50 Japanese schooners were fishing. Suddenly three of them changed course and moved in the direction of Russian territorial waters.

Without waiting for the schooners to cross the frontier line and for another breach of Russia's state sea frontier to become a fact, the sailors of the patrol vessel, who had been watching the maneuvers of the Japanese fishermen, fired several warning shots into the air. This was sufficient to make the crews of the schooners fully appreciate the situation and they turned their vessels in the opposite direction.

In the other sectors of the fishing grounds off the South Kurils the situation remains quiet.

Grachev, U.S. Defense Secretary To Visit Totsk Test Site

LD3008193394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1903 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Orenburg local administration has told Interfax that Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and his US counterpart William Perry will visit the Totsk testing ground near Orenburg on September 7. Joint US-Russian peacekeeping exercises are due to start here on Friday.

The minister will review the progress of the exercises, will meet with the commanders of the Ural military area and also hold a joint news conference.

Churkin on Nuclear Controls, Pressure on Serbs

MM3008160294 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 26 Aug 94 p 6

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin by Miguel Jimenez in Santander; date not given]

[Text] Santander—Vitaliy Churkin, at 42 years of age, denies being an ambitious politician, but, it is said, he did his utmost to avoid being appointed Russian ambassador to Chile and to be able to continue his career in Moscow. This week he took part in a Menendez Pelayo International University course in Santander on "The Balkan Conflict and Eastern Europe's Democratic Integration." Churkin was the diplomat chosen by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to mediate in the conflict devastating the former Yugoslavia. He is less eager to talk about plutonium trafficking, since he claims not to be thoroughly acquainted with the problem.

[Jimenez] Can Russia guarantee that there has been no trafficking in its nuclear material?

[Churkin] I believe that nobody can give a 100 percent guarantee. Thefts of military secrets occur everywhere. Nobody can guarantee that there is no theft.

[Jimenez] But it seems that in Russia the guarantees are now minimal.

[Churkin] We are interested in cooperating closely with all parties interested in preventing illegal plutonium trafficking, but before pointing the finger at anybody, what is said must be proved.

[Jimenez] But the plutonium seized in Munich arrived on a flight from Moscow.

[Churkin] Yes, it got through the checks, but how many tons of drugs cross international borders? Moreover, the specifications of the intercepted plutonium do not coincide with those of the plutonium produced in Russia.

[Jimenez] Could the low wages in the Russian nuclear industry encourage plutonium trafficking?

[Churkin] Throughout the world there are people who want to make fast money, both among the rich and among the poor, but being poor does not mean being a thief. For instance, those going on strike in Spain cannot be accused of being potential thieves.

[Jimenez] But in Russia there are official reports which describe the situation in dramatic terms.

[Churkin] Yes, it is clear that there could be problems, and that is why we are treating the matter very seriously. All we producers of nuclear material must check our procedures once more, and I am certain that our country is doing so, because we are not interested in nuclear terrorism developing, either.

[Jimenez] Do you believe that nuclear material is under control in other former Soviet republics?

[Churkin] They are sovereign countries, and I cannot speak for them.

[Jimenez] But does not Russia have some moral responsibility in this connection?

[Churkin] We would have it if those countries had asked us for assistance, but since they have not done so, we have no responsibility for their nuclear facilities.

[Jimenez] Do you believe that the West will try to take advantage of the controversy in order to control the Russian nuclear industry?

[Churkin] Cooperation is needed, but it is clear that Russia will not allow the West to control its nuclear industry. If rules affecting all countries equally were proposed, we would consider this, but, international control over the Russian nuclear industry alone—no.

[Jimenez] Do you believe that there is a real threat that some terrorist group will acquire nuclear weapons?

[Churkin] I do not know whether there are terrorist organizations with that possibility, but that danger must not be underestimated. We have surmounted the danger of a global nuclear war, but the gap left by that threat could be filled by nuclear terrorism.

[Jimenez] You have followed the Bosnian problem very closely. Was Russian influence decisive in inducing Belgrade to cease supporting the Bosnian Serbs?

[Churkin] Russia's role has not been small. A few days before Serbia's statement in support of the contact group's peace plan, two Russian ministers visited Belgrade in order to set out our viewpoint. That caused the Serbian leaders to change their stance.

[Jimenez] Why did you not pressure Serbia earlier?

[Churkin] The international community did not succeed in coordinating its stance until the setting up of the contact group. Moreover, we believe that the current peace plan can satisfy all parties, while it was impossible for Belgrade to accept the Vance-Owen plan, irrespective of the pressure brought to bear from outside.

[Jimenez] Has the West promised Russia quids pro quo for pressuring Milosevic?

[Churkin] No, and, in any event, we have heard so many promises over the past few years that one more promise could have no influence. Russia has ceased to expect aid from the West. We simply ask for equal treatment in the economic and trading spheres.

[Jimenez] Has the change of stance been well received in Russia?

[Churkin] Most of the population understand our policy very well. There are those espousing clearly pro-Serb stances, since they believe that from the historical, cultural, and ethnic viewpoints we must opt for supporting the Serbs, but the Russian Government is in favor of a more balanced stance. To adopt a clearly pro-Serb stance would be to support Serb extremism, and that would not be good for the interests of the Serb people in general or help resolve the problem. There are also politicians in Russia who are interested in the topic only for the domestic game of political attrition.

[Jimenez] Will the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims be lifted if the Serbs insist on rejecting the peace plan?

[Churkin] The members of the contact group do not rule out lifting the arms embargo on the Muslims as a final option, but we all know that they are already receiving weapons despite the embargo. That is one of the international community's major shortcomings. In general, when a decision is made, it should be made in order to be carried out. I personally believe that lifting the embargo would mean the end of the UN intervention in the former Yugoslavia. In that event, the most active supporters of lifting the embargo must accept their responsibilities. France and the UK have already warned that they would withdraw their Blue Helmets, and we would also withdraw ours. So who could go there? Some Muslim countries' forces? For instance, Iran always says that it is prepared to send its troops to the area.

[Jimenez] What self-criticism do you conduct of Russia's role in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia?

[Churkin] I will leave that for my memoirs.

Kozyrev Stance on Bosnia Embargo 'Unchanged'

MM3008145494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "Our Diplomacy Finds Itself in a Tricky Position"]

[Text] When leaving for a tour of Belgrade, Sarajevo, and Zagreb Andrey Kozyrev was presumably was perfectly well aware of how complex a task confronted him. Moscow has put itself in an extremely tricky position in proclaiming its aim to be to lift or at least ease the sanctions against Yugoslavia.

When he signed the international contact group's plan in Geneva two months ago the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry pledged to support measures for pressure on the side that rejected the peace plan. At that time it was still not known that this would be the Serbs and the minister reassured the pro-Serb lobby in Russia by explaining that the document was not directed against their "Orthodox brethren" but that the wrath of the "great powers" might well fall on the Muslims and the Croats, all they had to do was fail to agree to the proposed map for the territorial partition of Bosnia. However, the worst predictions were realized. The Muslims and Croats accepted the plan. The Serbs rejected it.

In line with the Geneva accords the next step should be to step up the sanctions against Belgrade and subsequently lift the embargo on arms shipments to the Muslims. However, Russian foreign policy makers evidently convinced themselves that this train of events would cause a storm of protest within the country. Instead of tightening up the sanctions the Russian Foreign Ministry began calling with redoubled energy for them to be eased. At first glance there are considerable grounds for this, namely Belgrade's ostentatious rupture with the Bosnian Serbs.

The problem, however, is that, apart from Russia, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic does not trust any of the members of the contact group. The United States, France, Britain, and Germany are demanding clear-cut guarantees that the sanctions announced by Belgrade against the Bosnian Serbs will be observed. The Western countries are proposing to post international observers on the border between Bosnia and Yugoslavia. Milosevic is doggedly refusing this, without presenting a single cogent argument.

Before leaving for Belgrade Kozyrev rejected the hypothesis that the main topic of his talks with Milosevic would be the question of the observers. However, it is hard to believe that this problem was not discussed. Had the Russian minister been able to persuade the Serbian president to change his stance, that would have been a major political victory for Moscow and a breakthrough in the Bosnian settlement. But there is every indication that Milosevic remained adamant. And whatever Kozyrev might now say about the need to encourage Belgrade by easing the sanctions, he has little chance of persuading his Western partners of this.

Especially after the Bosnian Serbs voted in concert against the peace plan without heeding the contact group's threats, Moscow's appeals, or Belgrade's entreaties. France and Germany declared the vote illegal. U.S. President Bill Clinton promised to raise the question of lifting the embargo on arms shipments to the Bosnian Government at the United Nations. Resisting the U.S. initiative will evidently be one of the main tasks facing Russian diplomacy in the foreseeable future. Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic was unable to persuade Kozyrev of the need to lift the embargo. At the end of the talks in Sarajevo the Russian minister said that Moscow's position remains unchanged and the ban on arms shipments to Bosnia must be retained.

Kozyrev on Situation in Former Yugoslavia

LD3008152894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is not disappointed in his visit to the former Yugoslavia, which took him to Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb. Nevertheless, upon his arrival in Berlin from Zagreb Monday night, he warned journalists against excessive optimism.

As Kozyrev explained, in the three capitals he heard "some interesting" proposals for a settlement in Bosnia, which, he said, "should be thought over and discussed."

According to him, the leaders of Bosnian Muslims, Alia Izetbegovic and Haris Siladzic, confirmed their adherence to the latest peace plan for Bosnia, and expressed willingness to search for the ways to continue the process of settlement in the republic. The Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic, also firmly supports the Contact Group's plan, Kozyrev said. The President of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, adheres to the same stand on the whole. According to Kozyrev, "it is possible to work on this basis."

The head of Russian diplomacy said that during his meeting with the leaders of Bosnian Muslims held in Sarajevo Monday night he raised the issue of military actions in Bosnia. However President Izetbegovic assured him that the actions of field commanders are not of a large-scale and organized character, he noted.

Kozyrev called for conducting the fourth ministerial-level conference on Bosnia in Geneva. "Evidently we need Geneva-4 to adequately appraise the recent changes and the chance that opened thanks to the new developments," he told journalists.

According to Kozyrev, so far Russia and its Western partners have not been able to overcome "nuances" in their approaches to the new situation in and around Bosnia "on the bureaucratic level" (at the U.N. Security Council and on the level of Contract Group experts). For instance, "bureaucratic inertia" is in evidence in the Contact Group, which displays "little flexibility in terms of taking into account the novelty of the situation" resulting from Milosevic's stand which should be "adequately supported." According to Kozyrev, the West has a different approach so far: while Russia stands for changing attitudes quickly following the new stance taken by Belgrade, its Western partners prefer not to be in a hurry.

Having pointed to the important role played by Germany in the efforts to reach a settlement in the former Yugoslavia, Kozyrev said he hopes that the upcoming meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and Chancellor Helmut Kohl will lead to narrowing the differences.

Moscow Urges Iraqi Implementation of UN Rules

LD3008153794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Russia believes that Iraq's observation of all appropriate UN Security Council resolutions is a key prerequisite for Iraq to be allowed back into the international community. This opinion was expressed in a Tuesday interview with INTERFAX by the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin.

He said that Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Riad Kaysi was received in Moscow on Monday. The two sides continued the discussion of the entire spectrum of matters related to settlement in the Gulf, the diplomat said.

According to him, the Russian side strongly favors the observation by Baghdad of Security Council conditions, primarily clear, unambiguous recognition of the sovereignty of Kuwait, its international border and Iraq's clarification of the whereabouts of missing Kuwaiti nationals.

Foreign Ministry Official Views Middle East Problems

LD3008155294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by our diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[Text] At the current stage of the endeavors to reach a settlement in the Middle East the main problem is how to channel the negotiating process toward the accomplishment of the principal task - gain peace accords and ensure a stable and lasting peace in the Middle East, the Deputy Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department of Russia's Foreign Ministry, Viktor Gogitidze, told Interfax.

As he said, President Yeltsin's special envoy for a settlement in the Middle East, Viktor Posuvalyuk, concluded another trip to the area on Sunday. During it he focused on negotiations in process between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Israel.

According to Interfax's interviewee, "as a cosponsor, Russia is concerned about the state of affairs in these directions, which are of key importance for the peace process in the Middle East." "Unfortunately, the Lebanese-Israeli and Syrian-Israeli talks are stalemated; many problems have piled up, which becomes evident from direct contacts with the leadership of Beirut and Damascus," he said. "There are also some difficulties in the implementation of agreements reached between Jordan and Israel and between the Palestinians and Israel."

As the diplomat said, the conversations the Russian President's special envoy had in Syria, Lebanon and Israel "revealed that the parties concerned realize the need to take additional steps to prevent the peace process from slowing down and reaching a deadlock." "For its part, Russia confirmed once again that the basis of Lebanese-Israeli and Syrian- Israeli talks is the U.N. security Council's resolutions, which envisage Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967, guarantees for the safety of participants in the talks, and the signing of a comprehensive peace treaty between them."

"The provision concerning Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories implies first of all the freeing of the Golan Heights as a key element of the peace process in the Middle East," the diplomat explained. "In the meantime there are no such territorial problems between Israel and Jordan; the Palestinians and Israelis are now engaged in talks on the establishment of autonomy, and the final destiny of the West Bank is to be resolved later," the diplomat noted. "As for the sticking point on the road toward normalizing relations between Syria and Israel, it is the issue of Golan Heights."

According to Gogitidze, "there are many underwater reefs on the way to resolve this problem." "Even though there are U.N. Security Council resolutions providing for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, there are also many other problems connected with the need to ensure security and with the practical accomplishment of such withdrawal," he said. "The negotiating process connected with this is rather complicated and difficult, since it includes a mass of elements, each requiring a separate agreement."

As Interfax's interviewee said, in Damascus and in Tel Aviv Posuvalyuk "voiced Moscow willingness to give aid to the parties concerned in terms of organizing the negotiating process, and extending the necessary advice or mediatory services with a view to resolving the most sensitive and intricate problems."

In comments on the idea of a trilateral settlement formula - Syria-Lebanon-Israel - advanced by Damascus and Beirut, Gogitidze said: "this is one of the ideas currently in circulation, which has not found its practical implementation yet." "Our attitude to all proposals capable of easing the course of talks is positive. And if this initiative finds support and approval among all participants in the negotiating process, we will have no objection to it, of course," the diplomat pointed out.

With reference to the problem of Jerusalem Gogitidze said: "this topic, including the city's political status and who it should belong to, is not a subject of talks at the moment." "Neither ourselves, nor the Americans, nor any other party are engaged in talks about Jerusalem," he stressed. "In my view, this is the most complicated problem in the Arab-Israeli file, and therefore it is not under discussion today."

"The theme of Jerusalem was mentioned only once in the Jordanian-Israeli declaration, and only in the context of Muslim holy places." "On the whole discussions on the city's destiny were put off till a later stage of the Arab-Israeli negotiations."

Interfax's interviewee described as "natural" the stand expressed by Tel Aviv during the visit to Israel by the special envoy of Russia's President to the effect that the issue of Jerusalem must not be a subject of international discussions. "The Israelis believe that all issues of Arab-Israeli relations should be resolved on bilateral basis," the diplomat said. "Nevertheless Tel Aviv agreed that the entire peace process should proceed under the auspices of cosponsors. And in their contacts with us the Israelis have said that Russia must continue to play its role of cosponsor."

Further on Yeltsin Interview on China Ties

MM3108095394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

["Answers From Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin to Questions From the Chinese News Agency XINHUA"; place, date of interview not given: "Our Cooperation Looks Toward the 21st Century"]

[Text] Question: PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin will soon arrive in Moscow on an official visit. This will be a new meeting between the PRC and Russian Federation heads of state since your visit to China in 1992. What importance do you attach to the forthcoming visit and what do you expect from it?

Answer: Russia welcomes the continuation of friendly contacts with China, including on the highest level. Relations between the two countries can be characterized as good-neighborly and constructive. The upcoming summit meeting between the leaders of two world powers, both U.N. Security Council permanent members, is called upon to make a great contribution to their further development. It will undoubtedly be an event of world significance.

We expect the PRC chairman's visit to give a new impetus to the development of relations established between us in the recent past. I hope our talks will be permeated by a willingness to develop businesslike, mutually beneficial cooperation.

Question: After your visit to Beijing in 1992 friendly relations with China and Russia underwent great development. What plans do you have to make our good-neighborly relations stronger and more stable?

Answer: Relations between our two countries are based on the firm foundation of the Russian-Chinese declaration of 18 December 1992. You will remember that a course of constructive partnership in bilateral relations and international affairs was adopted. This meets the vital interests of our two countries' peoples and is an important factor in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia- Pacific region and the whole world.

The talks in Moscow will also deal with a wide range of issues concerning bilateral relations and international problems. There is a need to further expand and develop comprehensive Russian-Chinese cooperation geared to the 21st century. During the visit it is planned to sign a joint declaration that will lay down the major guidelines for the development of bilateral relations in the long term, as well as an agreement on the western section of the Russian-Chinese state border, an agreement on the nontargeting of strategic nuclear missiles, and a number of other bilateral documents.

Economic ties between our countries must be raised to a new qualitative level. Business ties between our countries' border regions today account for about one-third of the total volume of Russian-Chinese trade. This is absolutely natural and logical for the countries which have the world's longest common border. Moreover, the Russian Far East and the northeast of China essentially form a single unique zone, which opens up great opportunities for various forms of economic cooperation.

However, the initial stage of the development of such relations, which was characterized by a lack of organization, a degree of chaos, and primitive forms, is drawing to an end. On the agenda is a transition to more modern forms of cooperation: industrial cooperation, investment cooperation, and so forth. We will do our best to support this process.

We must not turn a blind eye to the problems that have emerged recently. I mean in particular the increase in the number of violations of passport and visa regulations during crossings of the Russian-Chinese border by citizens of both countries. I consider this as a problem caused by growth. But it must not be neglected. We should not prevent normal contacts between citizens, including in the commercial sphere. At the same time, we must take measures, including on a bilateral basis, to make them civilized and controllable.

Question: Chinese readers are anxious to learn about the development of the situation in Russia. Could you tell them about the political and economic situation in your country?

Answer: With the adoption of the new constitution in 1993 Russia has entered a totally new stage in the organization of social and political life. The role of the president as guardian of the constitutional system and peace and stability in the country has grown considerably. For the first time the Federal Assembly, a real bicameral legislative body, has been elected on a democratic basis. The democratic principle of the separation of powers is being gradually put in place.

A substantial success for the young Russian democracy was the signing of the civic accord treaty. This document was signed by the majority of political parties and movements, trade unions, political leaders, the president, the government, and both houses of the Federal Assembly. It created the necessary conditions for establishing in Russia a new political culture and new political traditions based on tolerance for opposing views and the ability to develop a constructive dialogue between various social forces.

As for our economy, its present state shows that we are going through the most difficult, peak period of reform. We have managed to keep the country from chaos and disorganization, to stabilize inflation, and to prevent mass unemployment. Disintegration processes inside the country have been stopped.

I am confident that the new political and socioeconomic situation in Russia makes it a stable and reliable partner with whom cooperation is bound to be mutually advantageous.

Question: How do you assess Russia's role in international affairs?

Answer: Like China and the other U.N. Security Council permanent members, Russia bears special responsibility for maintaining peace in the world. The steps taken by Russia in the CIS, the Balkans, and other trouble spots across the world should be assessed from this point of view. Our role is determined by the principles of international law laid out in the U.N. Charter and other fundamental international legal documents. Russia's national interests fully meet the generally recognized standards of cooperation among civilized countries.

Jiang: Trade Difficulties 'Temporary'

MM3008150494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "Jiang Zemin: Chinese Illegals Will Hardly Stop the Moscow-Beijing Friendship Train"]

[Text] Beijing—On the eve of his visit to Russia PRC President Jiang Zemin received Russian correspondents working in Beijing. Before answering questions that had been put to him previously the head of state and general secretary of the party Central Committee welcomed us in Russian. Then the conversation was carried on via an interpreter.

"It is known that a fairly large number of Chinese citizens have stayed in Russia after going there on short-term visas. Might this problem not become a source of tension in Sino-Russian relations? How can it be regulated?" our correspondent asked.

President Jiang first replied that in recent years our countries have put an end to mutual alienation. As a result mutual ties have expanded and exchanges of people have grown. This is a natural process and can be welcomed. But, on the other hand, work to prepare the necessary legislation and other measures has not kept pace with events. That is why "certain negative phenomena" have cropped up. They must be removed, particularly in border regions.

Jiang believes that, if Russia and China act in a spirit of sincerity, friendship, and restraint, this question will not be a factor for tension in our relations and will gradually be regulated. The president backed up his idea with the Chinese proverb: "You cannot refuse food because you have the hiccups."

In Jiang's opinion, Sino-Russian relations progressed particularly after B. Yeltsin's visit to China in 1992. Contacts at the highest level have assumed a regular nature. Talks on the border issue and also on cutting back armed forces along the border have produced positive results. The upcoming meetings in Moscow will help lay the foundations for friendship and good-neighborliness in the 21st century.

That is how the PRC leader depicts the future of our relations. What about the slump in commodity turnover that was recorded this year?—Russian correspondents asked. Jiang thinks that the slump occurred for a number of reasons. Both sides are carrying out reforms and adjusting their export structure. What is more, changes in the visa procedure for trips to Russia and China have played a role. The difficulties that have arisen in trade are temporary, the Chinese president said.

Border Issues, Trade with China Viewed

MM3108105794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 3

["Interview for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI" with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov by Anna Kozyreva; date and place not given: "A Partnership Oriented Toward the 21st Century"]

[Text] China and Russia have conducted an active political dialogue recently. Russian Federation Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin and State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin have paid an official visit to the PRC, and the foreign and defense ministers have exchanged visits. The forthcoming official visit to our country by PRC President Jiang Zemin, the first such visit, is therefore in its way the outcome of a whole period in relations between our countries. On the eve of this event, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov answered ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's questions.

[Kozyreva] Aleksandr Nikolayevich, Russian diplomats are saying that the agreements which are due to be signed during the PRC president's visit to Moscow will lay the foundations of a partnership oriented toward the 21st century. What is the essence of that partnership?

[Panov] Jiang Zemin's arrival in our country is the second summit meeting. The first took place in 1992. On that occasion Russian President Boris Yeltsin visited China. It is planned that a whole package of documents will be signed at the end of this visit including a joint declaration, a statement on the nontargetting of strategic nuclear missiles, an agreement on the western section of the border, and other documents. It may be said, therefore, that our relations are those of constructive partnership.

What does that mean? It means that they are mutually beneficial, are not directed against third states, and are formed irrespective of differences in social systems. That is indeed how ties between countries must be in the 21st century. The point of them is that the two great countries are neighbors and must live in peace. The border between our countries is over 4,300 km long. Judge for yourself how important it is for us to preserve calm in this region.

[Kozyreva] It is remarkable that such a long border is peaceful and calm. But clearly there are still problems connected with the demarcation of the border line, are there not?

[Panov] Yes, there are problems. But there is also the desire of the two sides to unravel this "knot." In 1991 an agreement was concluded on the eastern section of the border. The proposal now is to sign an agreement on the western section. For the first time in the existence of Russia and China, the border will be defined in law. In the past it was rather hypothetical [dostatochno uslovno].

[Kozyreva] Yet disputed sections remain?

[Panov] They do. In the eastern section there are three island thus affected—two near Khabarovsk, one in the River Arkun.

[Kozyreva] How are they mentioned in the agreement already signed?

[Panov] It does not mention them. The accord was as follows: Because there are considerable differences of opinion over these islands, the talks will continue. We proceed from the premise that these territories belong to Russia. And we are insisting on that. There have been reports, particularly in Khabarovsk Kray, that the Foreign Ministry intends to cede these territories but this does not correspond to the facts. We have clarified our position and a Foreign Ministry spokesman went to Khabarovsk, appeared on local television, and met with the administration. The incident was cleared up.

[Kozyreva] Nevertheless, we have made concessions on some of the disputed territories, have we not?

[Panov] To begin I should like to note that all our delegations to the talks have included local representatives. We have not held any secret talks. Everything has been done openly and publicly.

Now for the question of concessions. The talks on the eastern section of the border lasted over 30 years. Both sides used all the means available, even military means. Do you remember Damanskiy Island? In the seventies we spent over 200 billion rubles equipping our borders. We deployed divisions and built airfields. But ultimately a commonsense approach prevailed—to define the border in accordance with international practice: along the fairway of rivers. There was no other solution. There could not be combat actions over every single island! But of course, when the demarcation of the border begins, problems will appear. According to our calculations, however, over half the islands will go to Russia.

Of course, there are islands where the local inhabitants grow hay and engage in other small-scale economic activity which will now be transferred to China. We took this into account and proposed to Beijing that we conclude an agreement on the joint economic use of such islands. The agreement is already being prepared. But there are also territories which will pass fully under Chinese jurisdiction. There are three such areas in Maritime Kray. And even though we will receive a large area with good plowland in exchange, the local authorities are stating: "We will not surrender our land!" However, this "our" is purely notional.

It must be borne in mind that, if we do not carry out the demarcation of the border now, the situation could become more complex in the future. In China there are certain circles which could make major territorial claims on us. The completion of the demarcation process will remove the problem of possible claims.

[Kozyreva] A large proportion of the questions which will be discussed at the summit are trade and economic. A certain growth in trade turnover between our countries was noted in 1993, but this year it has fallen. Is there a hope that the situation will change for the better again?

[Panov] New principles of trade with China will have to be defined. Trade turnover in 1994 has indeed fallen sharply, by approximately 40 percent. This has happened because barter, the method which prevailed until now, has completely exhausted its potential. The time has come to switch to the forms of trade practised in the rest of the world.

[Kozyreva] Can we be sure that Russians will be protected against the appearance of low-quality Chinese goods in our market?

[Panov] You must understand that the Chinese provinces that share a border with us are the least developed economically. High-quality goods are produced in the south and we are seeking to develop trade ties with those regions. But in any event we ourselves must control the quality of the goods purchased. Poor quality goods must not be allowed to pass through customs control!

On the other hand, we must develop our own industry in the Far East if we are not to become the most backward country in the Asia and Pacific region. Strengthened ties with China will help to resolve that task, too.

Interior Minister Meets With Indian Counterpart

LD3108055694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0540 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By CRIME-TASS correspondent Olga Solodova]

[Text] Moscow 31 Aug (TASS)—Joint efforts in fighting international terrorism, narcobusiness and criminals operating in the two countries were discussed by Indian Minister of Internal Affairs Shaka Raobhaorao Chavan and his Russian Counterpart Viktor Yerin during their meeting in Moscow.

The Indian minister spoke in favour of upgrading the role of international organisations, including the United Nations, in combatting international terrorism. He said India was particularly concerned about the issue because certain international forces supporting terrorists were intervening in the country's internal affairs.

The Indian minister stressed that his country believes that Russia must join the countries which have already called for the complete termination of such subversive activities, ITAR-TASS learned.

International terrorism was in the focus of the two ministers' discussion in Moscow, particularly taking into consideration Pakistan's nuclear programme, heightened activity on the Tajik- Afghan border, reports about the allegedly Russian origin of contraband plutonium and the latest findings about the twelve explosions in Bombay in March last year.

India is worried by information about Pakistan's complicity in the contraband of weapons-grade plutonium from the former Soviet Union. The Russian minister assured Delhi that Russia is ready to cooperate with India in this field.

Border Guard Chief Cited on Current Issues

MM3008123194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Aug 94 Weekend Edition p 1

[Article by Vladimir Klimov: "Through Transparent Borders"; quotation marks as published]

[Text] Topogeodetic and other subunits have set about the unilateral demarcation of the state border with Estonia. It is proposed to drive wide clearings through the forests and to drain swamp areas along its entire length—over 466 kilometers. There are plans to install almost 1,000 reinforced concrete posts. The overland sector of the Russian-Estonian border will be demarcated by 31 December 1994, while the submerged sector in Lake Pskov and Lake Chud [Peipus] will be demarcated by spring of next year.

And so, the news has arrived which cannot fail to gladden us. After all, Estonia has become a kind of springboard for catapulting weapons and contraband goods into Russia. Armed smugglers and nationalist extremists terrorize the inhabitants of the border region. There have been instances of attacks on border details. One of them ended in the death of a soldier.

It would be nice to believe that passions will now subside.

Everybody has a day from childhood which sticks in the mind. Mine is this: I am in a group of Russian kids, and we are going to school for the first time. Then suddenly, from behind a high fence, stones rained down on us thick and fast.

The date is 1 September 1947. The place is the Estonian city of Kuressaare on the Island of Saaremaa.

I do not believe in the high level of civilization of a people capable of throwing stones at young boys. I do not want to live alongside them without reliable protection. So it was with joy that I greeted the news that the first border post has been erected on the Russian-Estonian border.

Estonia ranks among those states which dream dreams of tasty Russian lands: a piece of Leningrad Oblast on the eastern shore of the Narva, and the whole of Pechorskiy Rayon in Pskov Oblast. A total area of over 2,000 square kilometers. Estonian politicians substantiate their territorial claims by means of the Tartu Peace Treaty of 2 February 1920. This treaty is supposedly corroborated by an international agreement. These politicians have completely forgotten the history they learned at school and in higher educational establishments not so long ago: The Republic of Soviets, which found itself encircled by fronts in 1920, sacrificed part of its territory merely so as to preserve the country as a whole.

If the only thing our border guards had to worry their heads about was Estonia, then their life could be considered almost a paradise. But to judge by reports from the 12th Border Post in Tajikistan, a border guard's life is more akin to a spell in hell. Situation reports are issued as if in wartime. But why say "as if"—it is, indeed, a war. There are deaths, and there are heroes.

So it is that the situation on the Russian borders is very volatile right now. And not only on the southern borders—after all, of the 60,000 kilometers of our boundaries, a mere 10,000 are officially registered in terms of legally binding treaties. Some 14,000 kilometers do not have a border infrastructure. And Estonia is by no means alone in making territorial claims against us. To the west lie Latvia and Lithuania. In the east, there has yet to be a decision on dividing up three islands with China.

There are particular problems with Japan. I do not think that the incident with the Japanese fishing schooner, when Russian border guards had to resort to arms, was the last. To this day, the entire length of our maritime border with Japan has no treaty basis. We guard it along the median line in the straits between the Kuril Islands and the island of Hokkaido. The Japanese believe that the border question can only be settled once we return the South Kuril Islands to them.

In respect of such claims, Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander in chief of the Border Troops, expressed his view quite firmly:

"I can state with total confidence that we have no doubts where Russia's state border runs, and we have a clear representation of the borders and zones of Russia's national interests."

When I interviewed Andrey Ivanovich I asked him: Would it not be easier to install a border across the entire territory of Russia and eliminate the headaches which currently torment the Russians? "But have you got any idea how much this would cost?" Nikolayev asked, and he named a figure in the trillions which are beyond the capacity of the Russian budget. You can tot up for yourself just how much new borders would cost us. Every kilometer of border equipment costs around 1 billion rubles.

Besides, it is not so much a matter of money. Is it really possible to divide Russia from Ukraine and Belorussia [Belarus] with an impenetrable wall? However hard the nationalists might try to split us up, we were, and remain, fraternal peoples.

Again, take, for instance, the border with Azerbaijan. Its transparency causes Russia much bother. Arms and narcotics come to us via Azerbaijan. And there is a huge stream of illegal immigrants. This was the topic at a recent meeting between Geydar Aliyev and A. Nikolayev. However, if you close the border between our states altogether, you will cut the Lezgin people in two and lay fertile soil for new armed conflicts. Organizing the protection of our border is very complex. Our main border department has outlined four areas for such organization.

First: Improved protection of boundaries with states which are not part of the CIS and which have an unstable military-political situation (that is, the Baltic countries, Georgia, Azerbaijan). Second: The formation on a contract basis of groups of Russian border troops in the states of the near abroad in order to effect the joint defense of the external borders of the Commonwealth (set up in Armenia, Georgia, Tajikistan, and Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], and being studied with Azerbaijan). Third: The creation on a contract basis of a system for the joint command of border troops (set up in Turkmenistan, and being studied with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan). Fourth: Safeguarding the interests and security of Russia on the external boundaries by concluding agreements with contiguous states (Belorussia, Ukraine.)

"The border is a distinctive barometer by which it is possible to judge the level of a state's security, the stability of society, and the status of interstate relations," Andrey Nikolayev believes.

As yet, the arrow on this barometer knows no peace. It is constantly jumping about between "overcast" and "stormy."

When the question of Russia's state border was examined in the Security Council, the border guards drew the council members' attention to sensitive areas. They included the instigation of intelligence activity by secret services from the territory of contiguous states; the plundering of Russia's national riches, particularly in its maritime economic zone and on the continental shelf; increased migration flows; the danger of the cross-border transmission of epidemics and particularly dangerous infectious diseases; increased attempts by terrorist and criminal groupings to infiltrate our country, as well as the increased scale of smuggling activity.

What needs to be done to make the border barometer read "clear" as often as possible? Russia's president, the prime minister, and other council members talked about this at the Security Council session. They all supported the border troops' proposal regarding the need to devise and consistently implement a Russian Federation state border policy.

There are a number of elements in such a policy. We will note the main ones. First, the border's diversity. Its various sectors possess varying status, functions, degree of protection, and potential explosiveness. On Russia's new borders, the defense function of the state is as yet in a fledgling condition, while on the old borders there is a need for major adjustments to bring things into line with reality. Second, 42 percent of our borders are maritime. Here, the border guards have encountered a genuine expansionism by smugglers, poachers, and other intruders. Third, the border is the meeting point for the interests of various ministries and departments.

There are examples—and fairly eloquent ones—of collaboration between the various departments and the border guards. They include the following operations: "Putina" ["Fishing Season"], "Rubezh" ["Boundary"], "Zaslon" ["Barrier"], "Inostranets" ["Foreigner"], "Tral" ["Trawl"]. During their execution the state won back billions of rubles, and many border violators were silenced.

A start has been made, but what next? In the view of Colonel General Nikolayev, the next three years will be a sort of transition period for the border troops. Their concept, role, and place in the state security system will be determined, and the appropriate material base created. As yet, the border guards are obliged to protect the border, to construct it, and to erect accommodations for themselves.

It is expected that we will master all our border problems by the year 2000. And meanwhile.... Meanwhile, we are proud of those guys who fight heroically against the guerrillas of the Tajik opposition. But whatever the politicians may say, in our hearts we do not understand why Russian boys are dying in the Tajik mountains.

"Border" is an emotive word. In the west, the south, and the east. And until passions on our borders subside, peace and calm will not come to our homes.

U.S.-Russian Magnetic Blast Test Described

MM3108103194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Aug 94 First Edition p 3

[Article by Vladimir Gubarev under the "Sensations" rubric: "Explosion at Test Site. Russian and U.S. Scientists Carry Out Unique Experiment at Arzamas-16 Federal Nuclear Center]

[Text] The detonator switch was pressed by Stephen Younger. He had to do it twice—during training, and then 20 minutes later, after the demolition personnel had installed the charges. The well-known U.S. scientist's excitement was noticeable.

"I have been at tests many times," he confessed, "but this was the first time that I had activated the detonating system.... It is symbolic, of course. But there are many such symbolic operations in our cooperation—only a few years ago, at the height of the Cold War, none of my colleagues could have even imagined that we would be working alongside Arzamas-16 specialists. Such a thing seemed incredible but, nevertheless, I am here participating in a most interesting scientific experiment."

It is easy to understand Dr. Stephen Younger. After all, officially he occupies a very important post in Los Alamos—he is deputy leader of the nuclear weapons program, he participates in the creation of thermonuclear "products," in short, he is one of those nuclear physicists who were "top secret" in the recent past. And now, alongside his equally "top-secret" colleagues from Arzamas-16, he is trying to solve one of the most fundamental problems of physics—the study of the behavior of substances in ultrapowerful magnetic fields.

Theoretical calculations (some of which were carried out, in particular by Younger, in the United States), show that at a pressure of around 5-6 million atmospheres a gas or liquid changes into metal or, to be more precise, possesses the same properties as metal. It radically alters its properties and begins, for example, to conduct electric current or to become ultrastrong. But how can argon, for example, be "placed" in such unusual conditions? Unfortunately, in terrestrial conditions this is virtually impossible—after all, you cannot set up a capsule containing gas or liquid somewhere in the center of a nuclear explosion or in the depths of the sun....

In short, calculations were made theoretically, but it was impossible to verify the data experimentally.

Fortunately, we had Academician Sakharov. Back at the dawn of the nuclear age he proposed the idea of magnetic generators. True, the task then was to create a thermonuclear weapon, and it seemed that this route could be successful. But then Sakharov had new ideas, and one of these led to the development of the hydrogen bomb. For some time nothing was said about magnetic blast [vzryvomagneticheskiye] generators, until Academician Aleksandr Pavlovskiy and his research assistants created a number of original designs. And since then Arzamas-16 has remained the leader in this field. The attempts by Los Alamos specialists to produce similar experimental apparatus did not meet with success, and therefore their generators are inferior to Russian generators in many parameters, above all in capacity. This is why the idea of cooperation in this field was at once approved by scientists of both countries.

Experiments are conducted now in the United States, now in our country. They are prepared through joint efforts.

And so, Stephen Younger pressed the detonator switch, and the casemate in which we were situated shook—the blast was powerful. Several minutes later the smoke dispersed, fragments of metal and timber flew through the forest, and the group leader gave us permission to go outside. The snow-white contraption which looked so striking half an hour earlier had disappeared, and a heavy metal "ingot"—the film capsule—had been thrown 10 meters to one side. The specialists carefully opened the capsule and extracted the films on which the experiment had been recorded. They still need to be processed to find out everything about the argon: How it behaves under a pressure of 6 million atmospheres.

Naturally, Stephen Younger and Melissa Cray, leader of the Los Alamos inertial thermonuclear synthesis program (she was on a fact-finding mission to Arzamas-16), remained in the federal nuclear center until the research assistants of Department 04 (Arzamas-16 laboratories are still coded) had processed all the data.

But then events happened in Arzamas-16 which have no relation to cooperation between the two countries' scientists, but were reported by the entire world's press. I refer to the plutonium which was seized in Germany and the uranium-238 found in the possession of residents of the city which they were allegedly trying to sell abroad....

I asked Stephen Younger:

"Do you think that a leak of plutonium or uranium-238 from Arzamas-16 is possible? I have in mind precisely the materials which can be used for the creation of nuclear weapons?"

[Younger] I am not familiar with all the security arrangements, and naturally they are particular, but on all my visits to Arzamas-16 I see that the security system in the case of these materials is very strict. It is similar to the system which we have in the United States, and therefore, in my view, a leak of such materials is impossible. I repeat, I am satisfied of this on the basis of my own experience.... [Younger ends]

Now a word about the theft of the uranium-238. Such an event was recorded and two residents of the city were arrested. But to all intents and purposes this was natural uranium—there is so much of this in the world that no one needs it. Those who stole it were simple ignorant people—uranium-238 is of no value for developers of nuclear weapons.

But what happened, happened. And therefore the federal nuclear center's director issued a directive to ensure that a thorough inventory is kept of these materials also. Unfortunately, speculation around the theft of nuclear materials from Arzamas-16 harms nuclear physicists and could have the most negative consequences. The country has already paid dear for the scandal around nuclear power engineering—many words have been spoken, but real work to increase security is stalled.

Political Issues

Shakhray Calls for Dubinin Resignation

MM3108104794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 1

[Interview with Russian Government Deputy Chairman Sergey Shakhray by Pavel Anokhin under the rubric "Vice Premier's Stance": "Ministry of Finance Not Carrying Out Government Instructions," accompanied by commentary by Vladimir Gorev under the rubric "Journalist's Point of View": "If Sergey Dubinin Cannot Get Rid of the 'Acting' Prefix, Then Maybe They Will Get Rid of Him"]

[Text] [Anokhin] Sergey Mikhaylovich, you have made a statement about the disruption of supplies to the North and demanded the resignation of the minister of finance. How justified are your intentions? Given our traditions of accusing the government as a whole, but no one specifically, this is something new.

[Shakhray] In answer, I would like to divide the situation into two blocks—objective difficulties and subjective factors. My sharp statement at the government sitting was caused by the latter.

Objective difficulties means the poor supply of funds to the federal budget. Funds are spent as soon as they are available. Some kind of sum arrives, and the harvest, military orders, and northern problems are funded urgently. It is all understandable.

But the North is different in that the funding of deliveries must be carried out in the summer, in the navigation period. And as far as this issue is concerned, we must take extraordinary measures, including transferring funds from the fourth quarter. A small increase in inflation could even be made, but we must fund the northern deliveries program rather than adhering to some kind of dead schedule. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Finance has taken the latter stance and has made a serious mistake in this case.

The funding of the northern program is done via two channels. The lion's share goes to the heads of regional administrations—this is the budget loan from the federal fund. The rest is accounted for by centralized supplies, on which the authorities adopted a decision back on 8 June, when the necessary funds were allocated. But the Ministry of Finance has still not paid anything out, and it has not done anything to solve the problem.

And that is not all: During the most intensive period of deliveries to the North, key Ministry of Finance officials went on leave. This has now become customary—as a rule, government instructions sent to the Ministry of Finance are either not carried out, or are carried out after a long delay. According to my observations, this style has taken shape because of the lack of due supervision of executive discipline on the part of the departmental leadership.

[Anokhin] Is the situation in the North hopeless? Or can it still be put right in some way?

[Shakhray] The majority of northern regions do nevertheless have around-the-clock transportation communications. If there are roads, this means that the northern deliveries will be carried out, and let us hope, nothing extreme will happen. But there are regions where you can only deliver output by water, along the rivers. We have closed off two-thirds of such areas at the very least. Essential goods will now have to be supplied to the remaining areas by winter roads and airplanes.... The most dangerous are the distant areas in Chukotka, Magadan, and the north of Yakutia.... Nevertheless, I think that at the moment there is no reason to panic and say that everything has been disrupted. What has been disrupted, unfortunately, is an excellent system for funding northern deliveries.

[Gorev commentary begins] The role and place of the head of the country's key economic department—the Ministry of Finance—remain uncertain. Sergey Dubinin has not been able to get rid of the "acting" prefix for over eight months now, which evidently makes his voice fairly uncertain at a time when his colleagues in the Cabinet are not embarrassed to express their opinions in describing the activity of the Ministry of Finance and its leadership.

So Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray has demanded the resignation of Acting Minister Dubinin. The reason is the catastrophic, as he sees it, situation as regards the funding of the delivery of goods to the North.

Is it necessary to explain why the inhabitants of the northern regions need help specifically in summer rather than winter? When the people living in Russia's central region will be delighting in the charms of an Indian summer, in Magadan snow will already be lying on the ground and frosts will have hit the area. After that, we can categorize all appeals to the center for the delivery of food and energy sources as wishful thinking.

The entirely optional and late allocation of credits for northern deliveries has led to a situation where as of 20 August, of 45 million tonnes of planned freight, only 20.5 million tonnes had been delivered, that is, less than half. Whereas the indicators for the supply of food may manage to catch up somehow in the last days of the navigation season, the fuel and petroleum products situation fills you with very serious misgivings.

"Once again we are driving ourselves into an extreme situation. In February we asked for 9.5 trillion rubles [R] for the Federal Fund for State Support for Northern Supplies, R7.3 trillion was designated in the March government decree, but in the budget the figure was only 5.5 trillion. And, of the allocated funds, the Ministry of Finance only managed to get R2.5 trillion to the territories on time. As a result, we will be saving people from cold and starvation by dropping fuel and food by helicopter. How much the treasury will lose from this—God only knows," specialists at the Ministry of Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy think.

It is hard to say at the moment whether it is just the Ministry of Finance that is to blame for the failure of this work. It cannot be ruled out that the kind intellectual Sergey Dubinin is simply being made into a scapegoat by his more resolute colleagues, who are trying to cover up their own inefficiency and mistakes by reproaching him.

This is possibly being done on the basis of the calculation that the acting minister, who likes compromises, will once again remain silent and will not answer the accusations.

But what if Dubinin himself is utterly fed up with the role of whipping boy, and he becomes bold enough to ask the question straight out—am I a minister or not?

Justice Ministry Official on Referenda

LD3008164394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1520 GMT 30 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—The widely-spread opinion of one million signatures necessary to hold a Russian referendum is nothing but a mistake. Under the new Russian Constitution, an all-Russian referendum shall be announced only by the president on the basis of a federal law on referendum, a high-ranking staffer of the Russian Justice Ministry told ITAR-TASS here today.

The statement was made in connection with the intention of MMM shareholders to collect one million signatures and hold a referendum on government resignation.

In the words of the staffer, there is no Russian federal law on referendum, and the 1990 law is no longer valid. "It is unknown whether the president will need a million or ten million signatures to announce the referendum. It is not excluded that a referendum will be announced on demand of a parliament chamber or part of a parliament chamber. Anyway, before a new law on referendum is adopted, the referendum initiative is fully reserved by the president under the current Constitution," he said.

As for the shareholders' intention to demand government resignation, the right to initiate the passing of a non-confidence vote on the government is given by the Constitution only to the State Duma, said the Justice Ministry staffer.

Democratic Parties Join Forces

LD3008151794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Report over video by correspondent A. Pishchayev with recorded excerpts of news conference remarks by Lev Ponomarev, cochair of the Democratic Russia movement; Konstantin Borovoy, chair of the Economic Freedom Party; and Galina Starovoytova, cochair of the Democratic Russia movement; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Democratic Russia movement and the Economic Freedom Party made a major announcement at a news conference in Moscow today. Representatives of the two organizations signed an agreement on cooperation.

[Ponomarev] We hope this will mark the beginning of a unifying process for Russia's democratic forces.

[Pishchayev] A document circulated at the news conference today explained that cooperation would include consultations between the two participants and other reforming forces, about putting forward a single presidential candidate on the basis of a joint platform. Democratic Russia and the Economic Freedom Party intend to form a joint pre-election political bloc in connection with this. Asked by journalists who the presidential candidates might be, Co-Chairman of Democratic Russia Lev Ponomarev said Yeltsin's candidacy is not ruled out. But, Chairman of the Economic Freedom Party Konstantin Borovoy said he could not view Yeltsin as a representative of democratic forces.

Speaking about their priority tasks—the fight against organized crime, corruption, and the disintegration of the state apparatus, the sides also had different views of the MMM joint stock company and the government's actions with respect to this.

[Borovoy] You cannot protect people who operate unethically on the market.

[Pishchayev] While Democratic Russia appealed to the state procuracy to lift the detention order on [MMM chief] Sergey Mavrodi.

[Starovoytova] I think that today there are many businessmen and also members of the government could be called to investigation under this same article.

[Pishchayev] The sides concluded that the next step for the two democratic organizations should be to convene a congress of Russia's democratic forces. A congress is expected to open in the fall this year.

Sign Cooperation Accord

LD3008163394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Democratic Russia Movement (DRM) and the Party of Economic Freedom (PEF) signed a cooperation agreement which provides for the nomination of a single candidate for the Russian presidency on the basis of a joint election platform and procedure, their leaders said in Moscow on Tuesday.

The signatories include three of the five DRM leaders (Galina Starovoytova, Lev Ponomaryev and Gleb Yakunin) and three PEF leaders (Konstantin Borovoy, Leonid Nekrasov and Leonid Spiegel).

The two sides are committed to encourage a rapprochement between all pro-democracy groups and to work together to convene a congress of democratic forces this fall.

The DRM and PEF have also pledged to take steps for forging a joint election alliance and agreed on a procedure for the withdrawal of their candidates in the case that they seek to run in elections independently.

Both organizations consider their topmost priority to be the fight against corruption and organized crime, provoked by who they describe as the new bureaucracy, as well as routing out corrupt government and police officials.

Filatov on Khasbulatov's Role in Chechnya

LD3008192094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The situation in Chechnya remains complicated while all opposition groups aim to resolve the sole task of removing President Dzhohar Dudayev's regime from power, Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov said in Moscow.

At the same time, he said that in spite of their common goal, opposition groups did not move towards unity. Filatov fears that a power struggle may break out after Dudayev's removal from office. "Opposition leaders must work together", he said.

On the role played by former Speaker of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov, he said Khasbulatov arrived there on what he himself described a peace mission in Chechnya aimed at peaceful removal of Dudayev from office followed by general elections in the republic. "He is popular and the people heed his voice. All of this goes to the benefit of the common cause for a Chechen settlement", Filatov said.

At the same time, the Kremlin Chief of Staff admitted to laying sympathies with leader of the opposition Interim Council Umar Avturkhanov who "has an untarnished reputation and has not discredited himself by any political moves against his people". "Even at hard times, the Nadterechnyy region had a normally-functioning government. That he now tries to bring unity within opposition ranks is also normal", Filatov said.

Interfax Note: Before his appointment as Kremlin Chief of Staff, Filatov was First Deputy Speaker of the Khasbulatov-led parliament. He was the sole parliamentary leader calling for constructive dialogue and engagement with President Boris Yeltsin, a position which drove him and Khasbulatov wide apart.

For his part, Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray believes Moscow will have to open contacts with Khasbulatov if he drums up support on the ground. Shakhray, currently of the presidential commission for devolution of power on the ground thinks the center's willingness to cooperate with Khasbulatov will largely depend on the latter's attitude to the reinstatement of Russian integrity, his preparedness to accept a Tatarstan-style deal and the amount of support he gets on the ground.

In the meantime, Avturkhanov and Khasbulatov meeting at the town of Znamenskoye (Nadterechnyy region) have agreed on joint action against the Dudayev regime. Working groups of the Interim Council and the Khasbulatov-led peace mission met at Ken-Yurt village on Monday to flesh out an agreement under which two opposition groups are committed to coordinated action, an Interim Council spokesman told Interfax.

Abdulatipov Criticizes 'Persecution' of Chechens

LD3008182094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Video report on interview with Ramazan Gadzhimuratovich Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of Russian Federation Council, by correspondent A. Samoletov, including recordings of Abdulatipov remarks; in an office, date not given; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Abdulatipov] Nobody is going to start a new Caucasian war because of Dudayev and the whole situation there.

[Samoletov] In this way Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Federation Council, commented on the situation around the Chechen Republic of Ichkeriya.

[Abdulatipov] If we do not want to deceive our peoples, we should unequivocally state that today a political figure will only have a future if he is unequivocally in favor of re-organizing relations with the Russian Federation, both today and in the future.

[Samoletov] Ramazan Gadzhimuratovich described as a major mistake of Russian domestic policy the persecution of Chechens on Russian territory which local authorities have started to implement in response to General Dudayev's threats.

[Abdulatipov] If we are really thinking about the all-Russian state's prospects, it is impermissible to treat our peoples this way, if we regard them as Russian [Rossiyskiye] peoples. Also, having failed to clearly define our position on who our partners in the Chechen Republic are, we have made it possible for all sorts of political rogues to make use of this problem for three years now and to almost speak on behalf of the Russian president.

Zhirinovskiy Says Early Elections Necessary

LD3008184394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The crisis in the country makes necessary early presidential and parliamentary elections, leader of the

Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told journalists today after his 20-day tour of the Volga Region.

Zhirinovskiy said that the LDPR might back MMM's initiative to collect the million signatures required for holding a referendum on early presidential elections in Russia.

Zhirinovskiy added, however, that he would not demand early elections if the LDPR was allowed to form the government. He said that this would be in line with the results of the elections on December 12, 1993 (when the LDPR received more than 12 million votes or 23

).

Zhirinovskiy said that in such a case the president would perform "only representative functions" as the new government would "carry out a new foreign and domestic policy."

Commenting on Russian troop withdrawal from Germany, Zhirinovskiy said that the troops should not have been withdrawn from Europe and the Baltic states because "they maintained the balance in Europe." He said it would have been more appropriate to withdraw the troops on May 9, 1995, (the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War). Zhirinovskiy added that by this time housing in Russia for officers withdrawn from Germany would have been prepared.

Zhirinovskiy Supports MMM Director for President

MM3108084194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Babich: "M. and Zh. Are Always Side by Side"]

[Text] Returning yesterday from a trip down the Volga, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy stated that at the next elections his liberal falcons will support Sergey Mavrodi if he runs for president. The dubious reputation of "MMM" does not worry Vladimir Volfovich at all. "I sailed the entire length of the Volga and everywhere people demanded an end to the persecution of 'MMM,'" Zhirinovskiy stated. The number one task today, in Zh.'s opinion, is early elections of the president and State Duma.

Apart from free vodka Zhirinovskiy has also promised the people free water melons. "In Astrakhan they are digging water melons into the ground because they have no means of transporting them," he said. "But I would hand them out free to everyone."

Government Appoints New Deputy Ministers

LD3108122094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1103 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 31 ITAR-TASS—The Government of the Russian Federation has issued an order appointing new people to a number of posts. Vladimir Kossov is appointed deputy minister of economics, Valeriy Dalin will be first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Statistics of the Russian Federation, Valeriy Galitskiy and Oleg Rybak are named as deputy chairmen of the same committee, and Pyotr Latyshev is appointed deputy minister of internal affairs of the Russian Federation.

Latyshev Becomes New MVD Deputy

MK3108102494 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 31 Aug 94 p

[Unattributed report under the "Hold the Front Page!" rubric: "Reshuffle Among MVD Leadership"]

[Text] Lieutenant General Petr Latyshev, chief of the Krasnodar Kray Internal Affairs Administration, has been appointed deputy minister of internal affairs in accordance with a directive of the premier of the government of Russia.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has been told at the Russian Federation MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] that appointing Latyshev to such a high position is connected with his excellent work in his former position in Krasnodar. Leading the militia in such a difficult region he has become famous for his iron grip and ability to find his bearings in hard situations. Incidentally, the appointment directive comes as a birthday gift of sorts to Latyshev, who turned 46 yesterday.

It is supposed that Yerin's new deputy is to take the place of the other deputy—Vitaliy Turbin who recently retired on pension. In the minister's staff Turbin was in charge of personnel, military and mobilization work, and civil defense. It is however not ruled out that the minister is to redistribute the duties in the wake of Latyshev's appointment, and the new deputy will be doing a totally different job than his predecessor.

Drugs-Related Crime Up 60% Since Start of Year

LD3008141594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Drug abuse is assuming increasingly threatening dimensions in Russia: There are currently 1,500,000 addicts in Russia, and regrettably, their numbers are constantly growing. Drugs are being brought into Russia not only from Europe and Asia, but also from across the ocean.

[Correspondent Andrey Murtazin] As we were told at a briefing in the Internal Affairs Ministry today, the number of drugs-related crimes has gone up more than 60 percent since the start of this year. Furthermore, new trends are evident in drugs trafficking in Russia: Criminal gangs are getting more professional and better organized, and alongside soft drugs such as cannabis and poppy straw, far more dangerous plants are getting into Russia—opium, heroine, and Columbian cocaine. And whereas a gram of cocaine goes for 30 dollars in New York, in Moscow it costs about 200 dollars.

With the collapse of the USSR, opium from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran started flooding into the CIS states. And though border guards and customs officers are doing their utmost, the major part of these lethal powders still seeps through the cordons. The new so-called silk road is very convenient for smugglers. It has replaced the former mainline into Europe through Turkey and Bulgaria, which has become far more dangerous because of the political situation in the Balkans. The problem of drugs abuse, which has become a scourge in Europe, could also become a global problem for Russia, too, for alongside the traditional Russian narcotic—alcohol—imported marijuana is becoming increasingly accessible to our citizens. On the other hand, drugs trafficking is the most profitable criminal business, which makes it extremely attractive for Russian criminal gangs.

Media Issues

Conference on Mass Media Opens in Moscow

LD3008154694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 30 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—A large conference on political, legal, cultural, social and economic aspects of the mass media in democratic society, that opened in Moscow on Tuesday, may become an important step on Russia's road to joining the Council of Europe. The conference is held in the framework of the programme of joint functions of the Russian Federation and the Council of Europe. It has been organised by the Russian Foreign Ministry, the Russian Committee for the Press and the Federal Service for Television and Radio Broadcasting jointly with a number of departments of the Council of Europe.

Chief of the Russian Presidential Administration Sergey Filatov welcomed participants of the meeting and read a message of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Filatov emphasised the leading role of the media in the establishment of democracy in Russia. He said the Russian media were one of the leading forces that prevented the tragic outcome of the events in August 1991 and October 1993. Noting that the freedom of speech recorded in the new Russian Constitution is the main guarantee of human rights, he expressed the hope that the conference will help overcome organisational, economic and other problems of the Russian media in a civilised way.

Filatov noted the importance of holding the conference under the auspices of the Council of Europe and confirmed the fact that a special working commission formed in the Council of Europe considers the question of Russia's entry into that intergovernmental organisation. He said that problem is planned to be discussed in 1995.

Pierre-Henri Imbert, director of the Human Rights Department of the Council of Europe, said that the freedom of the press is one of the main conditions for all members of the organisation. This should be registered in the constitutions of the organisation's members and confirmed by real steps. True democracy cannot permit censorship in any form. It cannot tolerate discrimination in the access to information, nor political and economic interference in the media's work nor presure by monopolies of publishers and diffusion systems.

The conference to last till September 2 will discuss legislative guarantees for freedom of the mass media, privatisation and demonopolisation of the press. One of the purposes of the meeting is to bring Russian legislative acts on the media as closely as possible to European law.

Yeltsin Message to Mass Media Conference

LD3008121694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1128 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has addressed a message of greetings to the conference on political, legal, cultural, social and economic aspects of the mass media in a democratic society, which opened here today. Follows its text:

"I greet the participants of this conference, representing Russia and the Council of Europe, the journalists and information experts attending it.

"The freedom of the press and access to information are among the most important factors for the full-fledged implementation of human rights and the normal functioning of democracy.

"We highly assess the role of the Council of Europe in the creation of an all-European democratic space, which includes also the domain of information. The holding of this conference here, in Russia, is normal and testifies to our firm intention to keep in step with the family of European states, including the perfection of legislative foundations for the work of the mass media, guarantees of the right to freely express one's views, and the elimination of artificial barriers obstructing the dissemination of information. This conference, without doubt, will contribute to Russia's early admission to the Council of Europe, which ranks among the most authoritative European organisations.

"The agenda of the conference is most universal. The democratic 'rules of the game' in the sphere of mass communications are being polished off and improved in all the European countries. This is topical for our country, too. The new democratic Russia has already done much to formulate constitutional guarantees of informational freedom, worthy of a modern democratic society. An important role is to be played also by the the statement to ensure in our country the standards of the 'European Convention on Human Rights and Basic Liberties', recently approved by the State Duma of the Russian Federal Assembly on the president's recommendation.

"The consolidation of pluralism in the Russian mass media is proceeding not without definite problems and heated polemics. They include, specifically, questions linked with journalistic freedom and ethics, as well as financial difficulties caused by changes in the form of ownership of means of information. I hope that the conference will help work out civilised approaches to these problems.

"I wish you all, honourable participants of the conference, a constructive discussion, successful and fruitful work.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin."

Yeltsin Congratulates ITAR-TASS on Anniversary

LD3108102794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0936 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 31 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a message to the ITAR-TASS news agency today, heartily congratulating the staff of the oldest news agency in Russia on the occasion of its 90th jubilee.

A vast colourful palette of political, economic and cultural events in the life of our motherland and the whole world extends between first reports made by the St. Petersburg Telegraph Agency and the latest reports provided by the Informational Telegraph News Agency of Russia (ITAR-TASS), the message said.

Having embarked on the way of support to political and economic reforms on their own choice, ITAR-TASS journalists have been creating by their deeds a new image of the central news agency in Russia, free from dictates and ideological prejudices. During the tragic events last year the ITAR-TASS multi-thousand strong collective convincingly proved that the "fourth power" in Russia can defend its democratic gains, the message said.

According to the classification made by UNESCO, ITAR-TASS is one of the biggest world news agencies. "I believe that this is, primarily, the result of selfless work by ITAR-TASS journalists, its editorial offices, communication services and services ensuring the operation of the news agency which has become Russia's national treasure," the message said.

He wished the ITAR-TASS staff good health, happiness and well-being and expressed confidence that in the next millennium ITAR-TASS will remain an exact and quick source of information sent from Russia to the whole world.

Media Transition to Independence Under Way

MM3108090194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Report from the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS column: "On Track for Independence"]

[Text] The process of the transition of the mass media to an independent footing is actively under way in Russia, Sergey Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff, has stressed.

He has announced that the overwhelming majority of the more than 250 federal-level newspapers "are not state organs." The same can be said of the more than 4,500 regional-level publications. There are 300 nonstate television and radio structures and more than 400 cable networks operating alongside the 91 state television and radio broadcasting companies.

'Real Plot' Being Prepared Against State TV

LD3008161894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Russia may soon have just one state television channel left, OBSHCHAYA GAZETA suggests on 26 August. This supposition figures in the title of the article which essentially reveals yet another secret plot against state television. I quote from OBSHCHAYA GAZETA: As has recently come to light from several reliable sources, an option for merging the two state television companies into one all-Russian company is being worked on—end of quote.

Over to our commentator Aleksandr Kurikov:

[Kurikov] To continue the quote from OBSHCHAYA GAZETA: It is difficult to vouch for the absolute relability of the information received. Rumors about the imminent reform of the television arise regularly—end of quote.

Now there's a thing! On the one hand we have reliable information, and then a bit further down the same column—all of a sudden it's hard to vouch for the reliability of the information. A paradox? No, not at all. The document really does exist. But one must not speak of it openly. Well, I don't know who forbade OBSHCHAYA GAZETA to do that. Probably that same person who has his own game to play, behind the back of the true professionals in television and radio who are concerned only with the development of Russia's contemporary television and radio broadcasting network. It is a very subtle game that's being played. There is a conspiracy. [passage omitted]

Once again, I am sure that a real plot is being prepared against state television. The desire to push the president toward merging the companies and giving the status of state television to only one television channel—in such a huge country as Russia—indicates that there exists a real threat that our inchoate Russian statehood could be corroded. Who could opt for that with such levity? Proceeding from the sum of observations of Russian political life, one can define a circle of suspects: Either someone on the make, engaged in backroom politics; or a politician, who has frequent contacts with people on the make.

Trade Unions Threaten To Shut Down Radio, TV in Oct

LD3008193094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Quotation marks denote recorded passages—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] We will recall that communications workers threatened to black out the broadcasting of advertisements on all channels as of 1 September. Today Anatoliy Nazeykin, chairman of the central committee of Communications Workers Trade Union, said that this action will not take place. Nevertheless, telegrams with threats to stop the work of local stations continue to pour in from the regions.

[Nazeykin] "Answering your question about what has caused this, I can say that it is because the Finance Ministry has not implemented the government's decision. Chernomyrdin has signed a document which outlined how to sort out this crisis. Unfortunately, the document signed by Viktor Stepanovich [Chernomyrdin] is not working today."

[Announcer] In despair, communications workers have decided to believe vice premier Shokhin's and Shakhray's solemn assurances for the last time. Today the two promised to ensure that the money will be paid as soon as possible. Otherwise, the Communications Workers Trade Union is ready for specific extreme measures.

[Nazeykin] "Our coordinating committee will meet in mid-September to take a final decision. I think that, as we already know the worth of these assurances in practice, the Russian Federation's radio and television will be shut down in October."

Press Committee's Mironov Tells Deputy To Go

MK3108102394 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Hold the Front Page!" rubric: "Fascists Have Come to Lay Down Personnel Policy?"]

[Text] It seems as if only the most indiscreet government official can afford in our times the luxury to fall out with neo-fascist structures. One example is the fate that has overtaken Sergey Gryzunov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Committee for the Press.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has come to learn from trustworthy sources that Gryzunov has recently gotten from his immediate superior, the chairman of the Committee for the Press Boris Mironov, a rather unusual suggestion. Namely, to resign as deputy chairman "of his own will." Strangely, the suggestion to resign followed soon after Gryzunov handed out warnings to three fascist publications threatening to close them. Malicious tongues say these two events are not only connected in time they also have a cause-and-effect connection. However, there is no making heads or tails of Boris Mironov's connections.

Economic Issues

Directive on Payments, Transactions System

MM3108092394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Aug 94 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Government Directive No. 1362-r of 26 August 1994, signed by Premier V. Chernomyrdin]

[Text] With a view to organizing work in Russian Federation components to normalize transactions and strengthen payment discipline at enterprises, organizations, and executive organs in Russian Federation components:

—regional operational commissions to improve the system of payments and transactions shall be set up within one week. The chairmen of these commissions shall be instructed to ratify the deputy leaders in charge of economic issues at Russian Federation component executive organs;

—the Russian Federation Government shall be briefed monthly on the regional operational commissions' work in improving the system of payments and transactions, and on the measures taken by them.

Leaders of Russian Federation component executive organs shall be personally responsible for the work of these commissions and monitor their activity.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government
[Dated] Moscow, 26 August 1994
No. 1362-r

New Decree on Securities Market Viewed

MM3008111994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Igor Petrov: "New Rules of the Shares Game"]

[Text] After the series of noisy scandals which have shaken the securities market to its foundations, the government seems to have embarked in earnest on introducing order in this delicate sphere. That is how we can assess the appearance of the draft government decree "On Regulating the Securities Market" which was prepared by the Ministry of Finance and has undergone coordination in all the departments involved.

The selection of measures with whose aid government financial experts hope to impart a civilized gloss to the Russian stock market has in general long been known and contains nothing fundamentally new. The main ideas—the maximum openness of information concerning joint-stock companies, clear commitments to shareholders, strict sanctions for violating established norms—all this as a rule is contained in the legislation of any country with a formed market economy. Actually, it is never too late to learn.

What clauses of the draft decree can be considered the most important? Above all the demand for the compulsory registration of shareholders in a register, which not only gives them the right to dividends but also confirms the justified nature of claims to a part of the company's assets. Until shares are fully floated on the primary market their purchase by the joint-stock companies themselves and the payment of dividends are forbidden. The number of shares issued should be strictly limited by the size of the paid incorporation capital. At the same time shares which have been issued but have not been sold on the market cannot be counted in the incorporation capital.

The above-listed measures will make it possible to create a reliable barrier on the path of the creation of "hollow" companies using the well known pyramid principle. And if to that we also add the stepping up of the personal responsibility of the founders of joint-stock companies for their actions then we may suppose that there will be a marked decline in the number of people who like to fish in the murky waters of financial speculation.

Nonetheless, to claim unequivocally that with the adoption of the decree society will be reliably protected against the market's penetration by the securities of speculators and fraudsters would be rash at the very least. In the opinion of most experts, in April the state organs already had sufficient grounds and powers defined by normative acts to study seriously the activity of the "MMM" joint-stock company. But no one did so. Here indeed is a case of the strictness of the laws in our country being outbalanced by the optional nature of their execution.

Yeltsin Forms Commission To Supervise Banks

LD3008131394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1226 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree that says:

"In order to enhance the efficiency of using budgetary funds and credits, perfect the system of payments and settlements, consolidate the financial credit system, arrest industrial decline and increase investment in the key industries, develop interregional cooperation and use potential versatility of regions to the utmost, and draw large banking and financial structures in the implementation of the economic policy, the Government of the Russian Federation should consider forming a commission on banks and the financial activity of representatives of the presidential administration, federal bodies of executive power and subjects of the federation, banking, financial and industrial structures. The duties of the commission's chairman should be entrusted to First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation's Government Oleg Soskovets."

ITAR-TASS learned this from the Russian president's press service.

250 Enterprises Registered as Insolvent

MK3008101594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 1

[SEGODNYA report: "Bankrupts' Lists Include 250 Russian Plants and Firms"]

[Text] Around 250 Russian plants and firms have been included in the lists of insolvent enterprises, Petr Karpov, deputy general director of the State Property Committee's Federal Administration on Insolvency (Bankruptcy) Cases, said yesterday. The compilation of the lists continues. In September, the registration of insolvent enterprises will be followed by specific decisions on their future. Deputy Prime Minister Chubays thinks it evident that "a relatively small percentage of enterprises—actual bankrupts—account for a huge share of non-payments." He said that the publication of the list of such enterprises will "prompt their management to search more energetically for ways out of the financial impasse."

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

U.S. Personnel Arrive for Joint Exercise

LD3008155994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1519 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow 30 Aug TASS—Control and airfield-technical groups of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Division arrived today in Totskoye, the Orenburg region, which will house the Russian-U.S. Peacemaker-94 drill on September 2-10. The groups will meet heavy cargo planes to bring 250 soldiers and officers to the drill grounds.

Servicemen of the 27th Russian Motorized Infantry Division have practically finalized preparations for the drill, sources at the Russian Army press center told ITAR-TASS today. They have made a field camp to accommodate U.S. servicemen and correspondents.

In the opinion of First Deputy Army Commander-in-Chief Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, everything is ready for the drill.

Pickets Planned at Exercise Site

LD3008193494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1803 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The ruling committee of the Working Russia movement has told its leader Viktor Anpilov to head pickets outside the checkpoint of the Totsk testing ground where joint Russian-American peacekeeping exercise will be staged in September.

Boris Kushkin, secretary of the Orenburg Russian Communist Workers' Party branch, told Interfax that nearly 300 activists from his party, Working Russia and Russian National Sobor will picket the testing ground bearing Yankee Out placards on September 2-10.

The picketing in the framework of the Russians Are Coming action will be joined by communist-patriotic activists from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Samara, Yekaterinburg and Chelyabinsk.

Grachev Statement on 14th Army, Lebed

MK3008110694 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 2

[Statement Signed by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and the Press Directorate: "On the Situation Regarding the 14th Army. Statement by Defense Minister of the Russian Federation Pavel Grachev"]

[Text] A fuss has been raised of late in the Russian press about the further fate of the 14th Army in the Dniester region and of its commander Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed. Notably, many fundamental questions relating for example to the stance of the ministry and the defense minister are often treated superficially in the spirit of sensationalism, or even in the form of outright political speculations.

A number of mass media publications allege that there exist between the president—the Supreme Commander—and the defense minister differences in assessing General Lebed's deserts and his role in extinguishing the bloody conflict on the banks of the Dniester. At the same time, rumors are being actively fanned that the chiefs of the Defense Ministry intend "to square accounts with the obstinate army commander" under the guise of reorganization of the 14th Army.

Erroneous conclusions are being drawn out of all this which form among the public a distorted idea of the true state of affairs.

On the other hand, certain political forces are trying to take advantage of the artificial hullabaloo around the 14th Army to crank up passions in society.

I consider it necessary to state the following:

The question of a reorganization or a withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Dniester region cannot be regarded as an independent initiative of the Defense Ministry, or be detached from corresponding agreements and understandings between all the interested sides.

All our intentions in regard to reforming the army, optimizing its organizational and staff structure, are based exclusively upon corresponding foreign policy decisions which—I want to specially underscore this—are still in the stage of final study. And it cannot be ruled out that certain amendments will be introduced into them by the president, government, and parliament.

The Ministry of Defense of Russia completely shares the President's high assessment of the 14th Army's and its commander's role in the settlement of the Moldavian [Moldovan]-Dniester conflict.

We are aware of what consequences a total withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Dniester region may entail before having finally put an end to the standoff between Chisinau and Tiraspol exclusively by political means.

And the last thing which I believe is necessary to add to the above. Humanly speaking, I appreciate the extremely difficult situation General Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed is finding himself in. We have just met with him, analyzed the situation in the large strategic formation [army] and around it. A number of measures have been worked out which, in our view, will help carry out the tasks set before the 14th Army.

Western Group Corruption Claims Viewed

MM3008095194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 2

[Article by observer Igor Chernyak under general heading: "Europe Believes Russians' Place Is in the East; Looking at Which Russians and Which East"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] ...The first items on the misrule in the Western Group of Forces were published several years ago when Yuriy Boldyrev's commission "dug up" so much of everything there that even the investigators themselves were horrified. But eventually they successfully removed Boldyrev and sent another, "more objective," commission to Germany which discovered no abuses there at all. After which the "IFV" [infantry fighting vehicle] (that was what Western Group of Forces Commander in Chief Matvey Prokopyevich Burlakov was dubbed by his subordinates) "ordered" from Pavel Grachev a group of Moscow journalists. The landing force under the leadership of General Kosarev, chief of the Defense Ministry information directorate, was sent to Germany at the expense of the military department's depleted funds. Drinking and eating their fill, after much huffing and puffing, Kosarev's men voiced the opinion that people should go to the Western Group of Forces for experience.

But as ill luck would have it the German press persistently continued to write about the corruption in the Western Group of Forces and the illegal trade in weapons and property there and scandals involving the Russian military erupted almost every week. From time to time the exposes of the affairs of officers and generals of the "invincible and legendary" group appeared in Russian newspapers as well. The Defense Ministry obstinately dissociated itself from them: It said they were the intrigues of Western businessmen with a grudge against the Western Group of Forces who were "paying the correspondents."

The defense minister never deprived the Western Group of Forces of his attention. According to eye witnesses his trips there were truly regal: Perhaps nowhere in the Russian Armed Forces was Pavel Grachev received as servilely as he was by Burlakov. Snatches of information about mutual relations between the two friends sometimes filtered into the press: Reports of the gray Mercedes acquired for Grachev in the Western Group of Forces ('the president gave me permission'); of the white Mercedes, the keys to which were seemingly given by the "IFV" for the wedding of Grachev's son; of the secret transfer of the minister's son to the Western Group of Forces and his hasty return to Moscow after the note in MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, and so forth. Should we be surprised that Pavel Grachev, despite the hail of items about corruption in the Western Group of Forces, persisted in taking part in the search for a job for his old friend?

Dumas' heroes would have envied the craftiness of the intrigues conducted in the top offices both of the military department itself and of the presidential and government structures on the eve of the Western Group of Forces' return to Russia. (In the opinion of some Defense Ministry officers and generals the recent revelation of major machinations involving currency and apartments in the international military cooperation main directorate, the former General Staff 10th directorate, were far from fortuitous: It is believed that on the threshold of the return of the "IFV" a glancing blow was dealt to the present General Staff Chief Mikhail Kolesnikov, to whom the cunning generals are directly subordinate). But in the end friendship prevailed and the sides involved agreed on a draw: Although the almost-pensioner Matvey Burlakov did not become chief of General Staff, first deputy defense minister, or a presidential adviser, at the same time he was not pushed into the post of commander of some military district or academy. The "IFV" became simply one of Grachev's eight deputies—this is not the first time that to find room for someone they want in the Defense Ministry staffs are increased and jobs thought up.

Nonetheless, according to the forecasts of analysts in the Defense Ministry, the battle over Burlakov has scarcely ended: When new cases of dubious deals involving the sale of Western Group of Forces property and establishments are made public, which they could be in the very near future, the colonel general will at best leave to look after his grandchildren and write his memoirs. But another scenario is possible according to which the Grachev-Burlakov double act, having acquired new supporters, will drastically step up its influence.

...While the final work is being completed to embellish the surroundings of the Belorusskiy station and flowers are being bought to greet the final echelons, it is not only containers with the officers' scant possessions which are traveling by land, by rail, and by air—via "Chkalovskiy" military airfield—but also constant flows of new and second-hand foreign automobiles and other far from military freight. And there is increasingly loud talk of the returning—invincible and legendary—military mafia.

Should we salute them as they return?

Burlakov Denies Alleged Corruption

MK3108102794 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed ITAR-TASS report: "Matvey Burlakov Has Denied Charges of Corruption"]

[Text] Matvey Burlakov, the newly appointed deputy defense minister of the Russian Federation, has categorically denied allegations of "mass corruption" that occurred during the withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces. "If this was so, we would never have been able to complete the pullout efficiently and on schedule," the general stressed.

Pacific Fleet Barred From Dumping Nuclear Waste

LD3008161594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Russia's Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources cannot give the Pacific Fleet authorization for dumping 2000 cubic meters of liquid radioactive waste into the Far Eastern [FE] Seas.

Head of this ministry's department for environmental safety, Viktor Kutsenko, told Interfax that the Russian Navy asked for assistance in solving this problem on many occasions and that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin banned the dumping of radioactive waste at the end of last year.

He also said that only the government could give a go-ahead to such an operation. The solution of the problem will depend on the recommendations to be given by the governmental Commission for Nuclear Safety, headed by Chairman of the State Atomic Inspection Committee Yuriy Vishnevskiy.

Earlier, a representative of the State Atomic Inspection Committee told Interfax that this agency was against dumping liquid radioactive waste given the likelihood of protests coming from Japan and South Korea.

Kutsenko believes that this problem has a political side. The aggregate radioactivity of the liquid radioactive waste dumped in October 1993 stood at 0.38 curie, while the 16 Japanese nuclear power plants annually dump liquid radioactive waste with a radioactivity of 6,000 curie.

He said that talks on the problem are underway with Japan. He also said that the Japanese evaporization know-how could not be used in Russia because requires a high level of energy consumption which the Maritime Territory cannot afford.

Tasks of Newly-Formed Academy of Military Sciences

MM3108104394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Reserve Officers Have Set Up Their Own Military Academy"]

[Text] The Academy of Military Sciences now figures among those scientific academies such as technology, engineering, and information which operate on a voluntary basis.

Its founders are the Russian Strategic Studies Institute, the Committee of Scientists for Global Security, the League for the Promotion of Defense Sectors of Industry, the Russian-American University, the Association of Military-Political and Military-Historical Research, and other public and research organizations.

The president of the academy, Doctor of Historical Sciences Army General Makhmut Gareyev, said that the need to create it was dictated by several very important factors. One is that many military science research institutes are breaking up and a large number of scientists and specialists are going into the reserve and retirement, and the loss of such scientific potential would be a very big problem for the Russian Armed Forces. The military community is trying to prevent this happening.

According to the general, it is essential to create a military reform blueprint which is integrated and elaborated on a statewide scale rather than [solely] within the Defense Ministry and which affects not just the Armed Forces but state defense structures as a whole. Clearly, only scientists without a vested interest are capable of solving such a task. And the Academy of Military Sciences intends to broaden and intensify the front of scientific work, which should precede practical decisions on defense questions made by state organs and provide those organs with cogent recommendations tested by theory and practice.

Branches of the academy already exist in St. Petersburg and Tver and will very soon be opening in the Urals and the Far East too. Funds for self-financing will be raised by military scientists doing practical scientific research for the state, public, and international organizations on a contract basis. The study of such fundamental problems as the nature of future warfare, methods for the combat employment of new branches of the armed forces, their provision with equipment, the direction and progress of military reform....

The leadership of the academy realizes that life in the new economic conditions will not be easy for it but it does have an optimistic outlook on the future. Retired military scientists have a lot of scientific ideas and untapped research potential to offer.

Dual-Purpose Technology Center To Be Set Up

MM3008131994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 3

["Own Information" report: "From the Russian Federation Security Council: Departments Combine Information Channels"]

[Text] A session of the Russian Security Council Interdepartmental Commission for Defense Security has decided to recommend that the Defense Ministry and the State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry create an information and analysis center in the near future for dual-purpose technology and equipment based on one of the Defense Ministry's central research institutes and the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry All-Russia Intersectoral Information Research Institute.

What is more, it is deemed advisable for the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, in conjunction with interested ministries and departments and the administrations of regions of the Russian Federation, to organize prior to 1 January 1995 a unified marketing information and analysis service based on the Intersectoral Information Research Institute's Infomarket system with a view to providing enterprises with skilled assistance in selling output derived from conversion on the domestic and foreign markets.

Status, Prospects of Arms Market Viewed

MM3008143194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 4

[Interview with Colonel General Vladimir Zhurbenko, first deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff and member of the Interdepartmental Commission for Russian Military-Technical Cooperation with Foreign Countries, by Colonel Valentin Rudenko; date, place not given: "Military-Technical Cooperation: The State's Interests Are Paramount"]

[Text] The state's interests are paramount. Everyone involved in selling arms must be guided by this principle, Colonel General Vladimir Zhurbenko, first deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff and member of the Interdepartmental Commission for Russian Military-Technical Cooperation with Foreign Countries, believes.

[Rudenko] Vladimir Mikhaylovich, the problems of military-technical cooperation are being discussed today in the press and on television not only by people who are directly involved in it but also by writers, politicians, economists, and deputies.... But if you focus your attention on their opinions alone, which are often, incidentally, diametrically opposed, you get the impression that we have lost all our markets. Has a critical situation really developed in the sphere of military-technical cooperation?

[Zhurbenko] I do not share the view of those who believe that we have severely curtailed military-technical cooperation. Whereas in 1989 the USSR accounted for around 38 percent of world arms exports, in 1993 Russia's share had dropped to 7 percent. The reason for this dramatic drop is primarily the fact that we have now virtually entirely renounced free deliveries and sales of hardware and weapons on credit.

Today Russia is officially, at the level of intergovernmental agreements, engaged in military-technical cooperation with 44 countries. In reality the number of countries with which we maintain contacts in this sphere is almost 2.5 times that figure. I must point out that of late a steady tendency for military-technical cooperation to grow and develop has been discernible. There is every reason to think that in the future Russia's niche in the world arms market will be roughly the same as that of the United States, which now accounts for 57 percent of arms exports.

Nor can I agree with those people who say that Russia has lost its traditional markets. That is not true. Although the United States is striving to gain a foothold in those countries whose armed forces are almost 100-percent equipped with our weapons, it will be unable to do so for objective reasons since it will have to totally rearm these countries in order to do so.

[Rudenko] As you know, the arms trade is a tasty morsel and many state and commercial structures would like to be involved in it. But by no means all of them—as life shows—are worried about the state's interests. How should the monopoly on the arms trade be ensured? What place should superexporters, manufacturers of arms systems, and the Defense Ministry play in it?

[Zhurbenko] The arms trade is the state's prerogative. That is a given. And everyone who is involved in it should primarily be guided by the principle that Russia's interests are paramount and not pursue transient commercial advantage as often happens today.

In order to ensure the state monopoly on the arms trade we have set up a special government structure, namely the Interdepartmental Commission for Military-Technical Cooperation, led by First Vice Premier Oleg Nikolayevich Soskovets. Its decisions are binding on everyone.

Military-technical cooperation embraces a broad spectrum of activity, not just the trade in arms. It also comprises the training of foreign specialists, deliveries of spare parts, visits by military delegations, servicing, repair, and modernization of hardware and arms, and so on. Many state and government structures, including the Defense Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, the Rosvooruzheniye State Company, and so on are involved in the practical implementation of military-technical cooperation.

The functions of the Defense Ministry include formulating conceptual approaches to military-technical cooperation, defining its areas, forms, volumes, and the range of arms and combat hardware for export, and taking part in talks with foreign customers. What is more, the Defense Ministry supplies foreign countries with special gear as it is released, repairs foreign countries' combat hardware at its enterprises, provides practical assistance in the assimilation, commissioning, and combat use of the arms supplied, sends its military consultants and specialists to these countries, trains national military cadres and technical personnel, and performs other tasks. The Main Directorate for International Military Cooperation of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff is directly involved with these matters. Branches of the Armed Forces also have corresponding organs.

Arms manufacturers are now winning the right to take part in military-technical cooperation in line with the government's decree. But this does not mean that they can avail themselves of it as they wish. There must be a government decision regarding any arms delivery no matter who is implementing it. I would like to remark that the Defense Ministry and the General Staff work in close contact with industry and support its desire to play a more weighty role in questions of military-technical cooperation.

[Rudenko] As you know, a considerable quantity of arms and combat hardware are being released during the process of the reform of the Armed Forces. What is being done about its sale? Including on the world market?

[Zhurbenko] We have many arms that have to be destroyed in line with the treaties on the reduction of conventional armed forces. There is regrettably not enough of the kind of combat hardware that can realistically be exported. And there is little demand for it. The point is that all this hardware is generally outdated models, and the market demand is for state-of-the-art weapons which we lack owing to the drastic cut in defense spending.

[Rudenko] Have we formulated a state strategy for military-technical cooperation and has the corresponding normative-legal base for it been created? Previously, as you know, emphasis was placed on the military-political and ideological rather than the economic aspects of military-technical cooperation.

[Zhurbenko] We are striving to combine the military, political, and economic aspects. One does not exist without the other because if you cast aside the political factor, for example, and only tackle economic matters you may put your foot in it, ruin relations with your neighbors, and lose friends whom you will not get again. On questions of military-technical cooperation we strictly adhere to international conventions.

As for the strategy for military-technical cooperation, we certainly have one. Although, naturally, it is constantly being refined and supplemented. Work is currently under way on a draft law on military-technical cooperation. At the moment the corresponding Russian presidential edict represents the legal base for it.

The old monocyclical arms export system that used to exist no longer does so. Last year the Rosvooruzheniye unified state company was created which has charge of everything and coordinates the work of other special exporters; based on government decisions, naturally.

[Rudenko] Our arms systems have another advantage in addition to their purely technical, combat advantages, namely they can compete on price with their Western counterparts. However, in the view of many defense enterprise leaders, we have not as yet learned to pursue a flexible pricing policy and we strive to get everything in hard currency alone, right away. And so we often scare off potential customers. Are there any improvements in this respect?

[Zhurbenko] Of course there are. We are willing to discuss any suggestion and I am sure that we can meet any customer's requirements. Just so long as there is interest in our arms. And we have recently been vigorously advertising our weapons in order to arouse that interest. There is not a single international exhibition or airshow in which we do not take part. Russian combat hardware is proving itself to be superlative there.

But I must say something else here. Does everyone want Russia to be so active in its penetration of the world market? The United States is not about to surrender its market to anyone, it hangs on to potential customers by all possible means, and we must do the same.

There are five states in the world, including Russia, that are developing arms systems in earnest. And there are 195 countries buying these systems. I am convinced that we will be able to remain one of these five. The Defense Ministry and the General Staff are for their part doing everything they can to ensure that, despite the economic difficulties, the backbone of the defense complex is preserved and thus the ability to manufacture state-of-the-art arms systems. And they are what counts on the world market today.

New Geopolitics Reshape Forces Development

MM3108090594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 2

[Article by Colonel Nikolay Khomchenko and Major Igor Bizyuk of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, under the "Problems of Military Organizational Development" rubric: "Geopolitics: How We Should Prepare the Country for Defense"]

[Text] It has long been known that the country's sociogeographic (geopolitical) position is one of the important factors that influences state policy. Ignoring this factor will inevitably lead to blatant oversights and blunders that would often verge on a national disaster. After all, however good the relationships established between state leaders may be, they are no guarantee of the same relations between states. As the saying goes—leaders come and go, but the people remain. As do the traditional friendship and attachment or suspicions in relations with other peoples and countries that have emerged over many a long year, or even centuries.

What is the situation today in and on the perimeter of the post-Soviet area? Fifteen independent states have emerged in place of the USSR. But the disintegration process has not stopped there. The purely arbitrary delineation of republic borders that was carried out during the years of Soviet power is complicating relations between former "sisters." And separatist sentiments often escalate into open conflict. Forces (particularly nationalist forces) in countries neighboring the USSR are stepping up their activities. Japan is attempting to dispute the legality of Russia's ownership of four islands in the Kuril Chain. Soundings are being taken on the issue of a former part of Finland—Karelia. There are rumors in Belorussia [Belarus] that the western regions belong to the "Polish state." In Moldavia [Moldova] there have been calls for unification with Romania. Turkey and Iran would not be averse to any chance to influence policy in the Transcaucasian republics....

The geopolitical situation in Europe itself has changed as well. Whereas previously the NATO bloc was opposed by the Warsaw Pact and the watershed between them (the so-called "heartland") ran along the Elbe River in the north and through the Balkans from the south, now the USSR's former allies are at best neutral about the countries that have emerged on the territory of their former neighbor. Many of them are clearly longing to join NATO.

The unification of the two German states created the prerequisites for turning Germany into one of the European continent's geopolitical centers.

At this juncture we should note that Germany's geopolitical position played a considerable role in the past as well. On the one hand, its western part (the industrial center) leaned toward the countries of West Europe. On the other, the eastern part of Germany (the agro-industrial part) was closer to the interests of the countries to the east. This combination of interests made it the link between the countries of West and East Europe and, at the same time, gave rise to a duality in its policy. In the years of the German state's existence—ever since the 19th century—it has taken part in more than 20 wars (or armed conflicts) during which it has fought three times in alliance with Russia and six times against Russia (the Soviet Union). Need it be said how important the balance between Russia and Germany—which has always been a factor in European stability—is in the geopolitics of Eurasia?

Yet it is no secret that, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the geopolitical and geostrategic position of the Russian Federation has deteriorated considerably.

As is well known, there was a "buffer zone" between the USSR and West Europe made up of socialist community countries which protected the Soviet Union from a surprise attack, reduced the effective range of NATO systems, and, at the same time, ensured that, if necessary, direct pressure could be brought to bear on the NATO grouping. Now Russia is separated from West Europe by a number of states—including former USSR republics—that can be said to have turned into a "buffer zone" for West Europe.

Russia's access to the high seas has considerably deteriorated—as a result of which it has lost a number of the geostrategic advantages enjoyed by czarist Russia and the Soviet Union. The "window onto Europe" opened by Peter I made it possible not only to conduct trade but to monitor and influence all the events taking place in northern Europe. Now the remaining "pane" (the Kaliningrad region) allows Russia access to the sea, but it has lost its former geostrategic advantage.

The same can be said of the Black Sea, which was our "window" onto southern Europe, the Near East, and Africa. The attempts to divide up the Ukrainian and Russian spheres of influence in this region are merely weakening their geostrategic position—at a time when Turkey is taking every step to turn the Black Sea into a Turkish sphere of influence.

Approximately the same situation could await Russia in the Far East as well. If the Kurils are handed over to Japan or transferred into joint administration with Russia, then the Sea of Okhotsk would immediately cease to be an internal sea—with all the ensuing consequences.

Civil wars are essentially in full swing in a number of the former Union republics that have become independent states (Armenia and Azerbaijan, Georgia and Abkhazia, the intraclan warfare in Tajikistan). These conflicts pose a threat of the Russian Federation being drawn into them. And the mistakes committed (or which might be committed) in making policy on these states could weaken (eliminate) its influence in the region, which would complicate the creation of a stable situation in the south of the country and the strengthening of ties with the countries of the Middle East.

Nonetheless, despite the difficulties of the modern world and the attempts to diminish Russia's role in the system of international relations, it is still an important geopolitical center. This role is determined by its 1,000-year history of world civilization. Russia's geopolitical position—which covers two landmasses (Europe and Asia), where the climatic conditions range from Arctic winter to the subtropical, where there is access to three of the world's four oceans, where the available natural resources include almost every element in the periodic table, and whose territory is inhabited by around 100 major and minor peoples—has in the long years of the development of its statehood and relations with other countries essentially made it an international state where the interests of Slavic, Central Asian, and Far Eastern peoples come together.

The changes in geopolitics are naturally having an impact on the military sphere as well. In this connection we will try to dwell on one of the problems of military art—the operational equipping of the country's territory.

We have always viewed this problem taking account of the existence of potential allies and enemies. This question has often been decided on the basis of the political situation. Thus, from the sixties to the mid-eighties our potential adversaries were U.S. imperialism, the NATO countries, and Chinese Maoism. Even if there were objective reasons for believing so, this interpretation could not fail to prompt suspicion and concern from the opposite side and encourage it to take retaliatory action. After all, officially we had if not friendly, then at least correct, peaceful relations.

From the mid-eighties to the early nineties it was thought that we had no enemies, but the military threat from "third world" regions still exists. This vague formula was disorienting when the main avenues of Armed Forces organizational development and state preparations for defense were being determined.

The main provisions of our military doctrine now state that the Russian Federation does not treat any state as its enemy, but, at the same time, existing and potential military threats from within the country and without are defined. In our opinion, V. Kirpichenko sets out his view of the problem in quite a popular way (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 21 December 1993): "...we must not pick out any countries or groups of countries as our enemies. But if anyone makes it their aim to violate our country's state sovereignty or to infringe the principles of world order enshrined in international law to which we adhere, they will, naturally, become our enemies." That is to say, in the prevailing geopolitical situation in the world, without seeking enemies, we can determine where the main existing and potential external military threats to the Russian Federation will come from. We need to bear this in mind when approaching Armed Forces organizational development and preparing the state for defense.

In particular, the operational equipping of a territory—that is, using professional jargon, the creation of a military infrastructure—is part and parcel of the state's preparations for defense and a component in the planning for the utilization of the Armed Forces.

Since we are talking about the state's preparations for defense, this matter should be approached in state fashion. In the current situation, when the normative legal foundations of this problem are being laid down and the priorities for Armed Forces development and organizational developement are being defined, it is important to recognize that under present-day conditions maintaining an army along the entire border is both too costly and not very effective an undertaking. It is preferable to have mobile groupings capable of rapidly moving out to threatened positions and independently carrying out the mission of safeguarding the country's security or ensuring the strategic deployment of the Armed Forces. It is on this basis, in particular, that we are planning to develop mobile forces.

The same approach will probably be expedient for the operational equipping of the country's territory, whereby a military infrastructure will be created primarily in the assumed (on the basis of the prevailing military-political situation) areas of possible military action. Of course, the most ideal scenario would be the existence of military infrastructure installations across the entire country so as to enable us at any time to deploy and provide backup for operations by different Armed Forces groupings. But Russia's current economic potential does not make this possible. Consequently, by assessing the geopolitical situation in the world, we can, in our view, define the main areas where the problem will have to be solved in the immediate future.

First. The collapse of the Soviet Union destroyed the global system for safeguarding the country's security (air-defense systems, missile-attack early-warning systems). With the creation of national armies, these once sound systems could essentially turn into individual installations unable to independently carry out the missions they were tasked with. A large proportion of these installations were located directly on the state border and, naturally, now find themselves on the territory of other states (of the eight missile-attack early-warning stations only three are on Russian Federation territory). Whether we will be able to retain these integrated systems and just how reliable and immune to political circumstances they are is a very difficult question. That is why it would, in our view, be expedient to reach an agreement on the leasing of these installations to the Russian Federation Armed Forces for a certain time with a view to creating an integrated system—which would also be in the interests of the states on whose territories these installations are located. At the same time, installations could be recreated on Russian territory to replace those left outside the Russian Federation. Thus, we would create our own systems for safeguarding our security which would be capable of ensuring Russia's security in the event of other countries' refusing us access to the integrated systems.

Second. The United States has still not given up its views of safeguarding its own security. Unlike the European armies, for the United States defense of its national territory has never been its main task. Although the new national plan for military organizational development envisages cuts in Armed Forces numbers, the ambitions remain the same. The concept of expanding the U.S. military presence presupposes the creation of a grouping of general-purpose forces abroad aimed at defending and safeguarding U.S. interests and security. This would mean around 100,000 men in Europe, up to 10,000 men in Northeast Asia, Marine expeditionary forces and a special ground force battalion in Okinawa, and it would be planned to send forces to other areas (Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America) whenever there was a threat to U.S. interests, without any permanent deployments. It is becoming obvious that it is planned to "safeguard U.S. interests and security" in direct proximity to Russia—which does not square with the assurances and statements made by administration officials. On this basis, the operational equipping of Russian territory should be carried out in areas where we would find such a "presence" undesirable.

Third. The expansion of the "buffer zone" on Russia's western borders has not strengthened stability in this region. Moreover, in the event of NATO expanding to include former Warsaw Pact countries and former republics of the Soviet Union (and that is the trend) the world's largest grouping—with an enormous offensive potential—would be in direct proximity to Russian borders. Whereas in the recent past NATO was seen as a counterweight to the USSR and the Warsaw Pact, this role is now dubious. Consequently, a radical reevaluation of all defensive concepts—including those relating to the development and improvement of Russia's military infrastructure—is needed.

Fourth. Civil wars are smoldering all along Russian's southern border in the Caucasus. It is likely that confrontation forces in these countries (and certain countries of the region—such as Turkey, which has pledged to supply Azerbaijan with armaments and to participate in training Azerbaijani servicemen) will have an interest in what is happening and will try to draw Russia into these conflicts with a view to casting it in the role of a policeman, thereby weakening its traditional influence in the area. Or to simply transferring the conflicts to Russian territory. In this connection the greatest threat to Russia in the immediate future is posed by this region, which presupposes the staging of measures to set up a military infrastructure here alongside the creation of a corresponding Armed Forces grouping in the area.

Fifth. While the Soviet Union existed, military districts such as the Moscow, Volga, and Urals Military Districts were considered internal districts whose main task was to shape reserves and dispatch them to border districts, which would become the front line in the event of a war. In the current situation these districts—like all the others, incidentally—have become Russian border districts which also need an appropriate infrastructure in order to shape reserves.

Sixth. The geopolitical changes that have taken place in the world have accelerated the process of reforming the Russian Federation Armed Forces—a process begun in the USSR Armed Forces back in the late eighties. The emphasis on mobile Armed Forces equipped with modern weapons and materiel and the retreat from the universal deployment of troops along the state border all required a revision of the weighting of each branch of service and troop (force) combat arm in the overall Russian Federation Armed Forces structure, giving them new qualities commensurate with the modern requirements of the development of military art. On this basis, as has already been mentioned, it is planned to set up mobile forces, among others. A corresponding military infrastructure will be required to provide support for their operations. To this end it is necessary to define right now what military infrastructure installations we need and in what numbers in order to ensure their viability (a dual or triple basing system); and in which areas (regions, zones of responsibility) we need to plan for them and set them up. Moreover, the entry into service of new weapons types will require the introduction of changes to the Russian Federation's existing military infrastructure (the construction and modernization of deployment areas, and the basing of new weapons and servicing systems).

All this, of course, is by no means a full list of the problems stemming from the assessment of the prevailing geopolitical situation around Russia and in the world, but represents merely the most important problems, in our view. Some of them are already being solved. But this important work should be done within the framework of a state program for the operational equipping of Russian Federation territory in the next few years and in the future. This approach would correspond to Russia's security interests and would make it possible to make effective use of the funds which, one way or another, will be allocated for these purposes.

FCS Agents Allegedly Arrested for Uranium Trading

MK3008102694 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Kholodov: "Uranium Mafia Has Penetrated the FCS. They Simply Radiated When Being Arrested"]

[Text] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned a sensational piece of news. Two Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] officers were arrested last Wednesday right in downtown Moscow for peddling... uranium. The origin of the uranium is unknown. The criminals were exposed by their own colleagues from the counterintelligence service. Apparently this was the first step in implementing the agreement between FCS Director Sergey Stepashin and his German counterparts on joint actions to combat the uranium mafia.

This information could not be confirmed at the FCS Public Relations Center, but confirmation has been established through other channels. It cannot be ruled out that at a time of uranium scandals, the case might well have been classified.

The detainees' neighbors are shocked. Nearly one kilogram of the strategic element was found on the smugglers. Another kilogram was confiscated during the subsequent search of the traders' "main office." Local tenants have told us that the uranium traders kept their goods in something like regular cardboard boxes. At the moment of their arrest the apartment was so contaminated that it was almost radiating. [For further reportage on this topic, see the item titled "FCS To Sue Newspaper for 'Sensational' Report" in the 30 August 1994 Central Eurasia Daily Report, p 13]

Counterintelligence Spokesman on Arrests

AU3008122194 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, Aug 30 (AFP)—Several people were arrested in Moscow last week on suspicion of illicit trade in radioactive material, a spokesman for Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK) said Tuesday.

The confirmation of the arrests came on the eve of talks in Berlin between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl that officials have said would include talks on nuclear security.

FSK spokesman Sergei Vassiliyev told AFP the group was arrested Wednesday and said the suspects were "found with radioactive material."

Vassiliyev refused to give any further details on the number or identities of those arrested, the nature of the substance they possessed or any other information about the case.

He denied however a report published Tuesday in the popular daily MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS alleging that two FCS agents were among those arrested in connection with the illegal sale of uranium.

Yeltsin meanwhile dismissed recent reports of nuclear smuggling from Russia.

"All the talk about this also lets people forget about previous reports in the foreign press on the uncontrolled production of military plutonium by foreign military nuclear centers," Yeltsin told INTERFAX in an interview.

He also attributed reports on lax controls over Russian nuclear materials to "the long-term economic interests of companies that work in this field and said "no third force" would be allowed to damage Russian-German relations.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev also downplayed reports on poor nuclear controls in Russia.

"All this anti-Russian noise has lost its meaning" following the visit earlier this month to Moscow by Germany's intelligence coordinator, Bernd Schmidbauer, Kozyrev told reporters on his arrival in Berlin on Monday.

Schmidbauer and FCS chief Sergey Stepashin agreed then to step up border controls and increase joint efforts to prevent nuclear smuggling.

The newspaper report Tuesday came a week after Russian authorities announced they had arrested two people caught stealing 9.5 kilograms of non-military uranium from the secret city of Arzamas-16 in the Urals.

Vassiliyev said those arrested in Moscow last week had "no relation whatsoever with the FCS."

In a front-page story headlined "Uranium Mafia Penetrates the FCS," the newspaper also recorded the FCS denial that its personnel were arrested but said the story had been confirmed through unspecified "other channels."

The report said those arrested were found with 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) of a "strategic element" and that a search of their "headquarters" turned up another kilogram.

The story specifically named the element involved in the case as uranium.

It added that the alleged traffickers had stored the uranium in an "ordinary carton" and stated that neighbours of those arrested were "shocked" by the case.

ITAR-TASS news agency published an unusual dispatch late Monday quoting the FCS press service as speculating that the article was published to create a "provocation" on the eve of President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Germany.

Yeltsin was due to depart later Tuesday for Berlin, where he was to take part in ceremonies marking the withdrawal of the last Russian troops from Germany and for talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Vassiliyev confirmed reports that the FCS would file suit against MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS for publishing the article.

Journalists at the newspaper were not answering their phones Tuesday.

Fire at Chelyabinsk-65 Nuclear Plant Contained

LD3108115294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1107 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Aug—There was a small fire today at a plant reprocessing irradiated fuel from nuclear power stations belonging to the "Mayak" association in Ozersk, formerly known as Chelyabinsk-65. The emergency incident took place at 0040 hours local time [2040 GMT] during dismantling of a fuel assembly. ITAR-TASS was told about this by the information directorate of Russia's Nuclear Power Ministry.

The equipment at "Mayak" was switched off and disconnected. The fire has been put out. No personnel were irradiated.

According to experts, radioactive proucts entering the atmosphere after (?going through) the gas purifiying system constituted 4.35 percent of the enterprise's permitted emission level. The incident presents no danger to the public or the environment. Nonetheless, a special commission has been set up to determine the causes of the fire.

Second Mir Space Docking Attempt Fails

LD3008160494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1557 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—The second attempt of docking between the Progress ferry and the Mir space station failed on Tuesday, ITAR-TASS learnt at the flight control centre.

Third Attempt Scheduled for Friday

LD3108083394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0718 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Karlov]

[Text] Moscow August 31 TASS—The third attempt to dock the Progress space ferry to the orbiting manned Mir station will supposedly take place on Friday, a source in the Flight Control Centre told ITAR-TASS today.

Two previous attempts to dock the cargo craft with the station failed. According to the source, the ferry has enough fuel for the third docking attempt. It is still unclear whether it will be made in the automatic mode or the cosmonauts will have to interfere using external manipulators of the station. The final decision is to be taken by flight controllers at a sitting scheduled for noon today.

Baykonur 'Will Not Be Needed' in a Few Years

MM3008140994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0600 GMT 28 Aug 94

[From the "Test Range" program: Video report from Plesetsk by Konstantin Lantratov, identified by caption]

[Excerpts] [Lantratov over video of blast-off] Until 1991 there were two space ports in the Soviet Union—Baykonur and Plesetsk. Baykonur is located on the territory of Kazakhstan, which is incapable of producing space equipment and carrying out launches on its own. Aware of the importance which Russia attaches to Baykonur, Kazakhstan is demanding increasingly high rent for the facility. This is detracting from the role of the southern cosmodrome. On Russia's territory there is the Plesetsk cosmodrome, known officially as the missile and space test range. It was from here that two-thirds of all our spacecraft were launched. However, when Plesetsk was being built, nobody spoke about the possibility of its use for space exploration. From 1960 onward ballistic missiles were on alert duty here. But as early as May 1964 a government decision was adopted on changing it from a missile complex into a missile and space complex. And in July 1964 a military unit, which has just marked its 30th aniversary, was formed at Plesetsk. Colonel General Ivanov, commander of Russia's Military Space Forces, served here in the seventies. To this day he avails himself of every oppportunity to visit one of the most memorable places of his service career.

However, everything is changing now. Foreign and our own tourists are relatively frequent guests at the northern test range. Do you know who this is? It is the heir to the Russian imperial throne Georgiy Mikhaylovich Romanov. It must be interesting for him to see real sputniks and try on the uniform of the Military Space Forces. True, it does not fit him very well, but a year or two of service in these forces clearly would do this boy no harm. Naturally, all this is just a show, but it merely serves to underline the world's interest in Plesetsk. [Video shows blast-off, various launch pad installations, aircraft landing, imperial family emerging and inspecting installations] [passage omitted]

[Lantratov over video of launch pad installations, "Zenit" booster] People at Plesetsk are thinking about the future. Construction of a launch complex for the "Zenit" booster, which was put on ice in the early nineties, is now advancing apace. In a few years' time installations like those in Baykonur will not be needed. "Zenit" will be capable of launching manned spacecraft from Plesetsk. [video shows launch installations, booster, another blast-off]

Regional Affairs

Chechen Government, Opposition Fighting Intensifies

LD3108095494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0906 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Znamenskoye (Nadterechnyy rayon), 31 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Armed confrontation between the opposition and supporters of Dzhokhar Dudayev intensified in Chechnya. According to a report from the Interim Council's press office, government troops attempted last night to establish control over the bridge across the River Argun which is guarded by Ruslan Labazanov's opposition forces. The Interim Council urgently sent a motorized detachment to Argun city to support Ruslan Labazonov's group.

A source from the CHECHENPRESS agency in Groznyy told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that an armed detachment under Shamil Basayev—which had previously fought in Abkhazia—took part in the conflict over the Argun bridge, in support of Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Dudayev Support Lessening, Opposition Uniting

MM3108085994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Petr Karapetyan: "Opposition in Chechnya Consolidating and Stating that Dudayev Regime's Days Are Numbered"]

[Text] Armed opposition detachments, the Chechen Interim Council claims, have carried out several successful operations to blockade Groznyy. Former City Mayor Beslan Gantamirov controls the strategically important Chervlenskiy Bridge and is attempting to win the Ishchorskiy Bridge north of Groznyy from Dzhokhar Dudayev's guards. Ten T-62 tanks, several armored transporters, and two infantry battalions are taking part in this operation. In a press statement Beslan Gantamirov assumed that agreement between all opposition forces "on the issue of the ouster of Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime will be reached, since this regime is doomed and is living through its last days." Dudayev should not count on going to jail, Gantamirov said, because "his hands are personally stained with the blood of many of my comrades."

The opposition, judging from a report from Chechnya, is indeed consolidating. Admittedly, there are nonetheless differences in their assessments of the situation. Whereas Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian parliament, is insisting on the bloodless removal of Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime, Interim Council Head Umar Avturkhanov believes that if Dudayev does not go voluntarily, it will clearly be necessary to force him out. And one other point. Commanders of armed opposition detachments have categorically rejected the proposal from Ruslan Khasbulatov's "peacekeeping group" for all formations to be made subordinate to it. This has given certain observers an excuse to conclude that, having ousted Dudayev, the opposition leaders would clearly start squabbling among themselves. It has to be admitted that these fears are not without foundation, but the future development of events will show just how substantial they are.

If opposition leaders can afford to argue about the methods—peaceful or military—they will use to oust their opponent, then Dzhokhar Dudayev has limited his own room for maneuver by transforming the crisis of power in Chechnya exclusively into a question of confrontation. Of course, he could fundamentally change the nature of his relationship with opposition leaders by expressing a readiness to compromise, thereby reaffirming his commitment to civilized ways of settling conflicts. Dzhokhar Dudayev's main mistake is his unconditional gamble on force. Now that the number of his supporters within the republic can scarcely be numbered in the hundreds, this mistake—despite Dudayev's best propaganda efforts—has become particularly tangible.

Chechnya Ready To Purchase Armored Equipment

LD3008202394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Groznyy said today it is ready to purchase armored equipment of the opposition in the Nadterechny Region. Speaking on national television, the Chechen president's representative Musa Merzhoyev said that there was an appropriate official instruction on this given by the government. He said that an armored vehicle handed over to government troops would cost $3000 and a tank $6000.

Merzhoyev said that the low price was due to the poor condition of the opposition's equipment.

'Big Events' Predicted in Groznyy

MM3008160394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 AUg 94 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Gritchin: "Ruling Regime in Groznyy Gives Opposition Chance To Rehabilitate Itself"]

[Text] Stavropol—Groznyy is becoming less and less calm. During the night of 30 August a plastic mine exploded near the presidential place outside the Lotos hotel, and unknown gunmen then bombarded the hotel building where Dudayev's guardsmen are now living.

The night before a similar mine wrecked the Chechen general prosecutor's unfinished out-of-town residence. The city is bristling on all sides with howitzer muzzles, armored personnel carriers, and other military hardware. While on the opposing side the transport approaches to the capital are being blocked by opposition forces. According to A. Maskhadov, chief of the main staff of the Chechen Armed Forces, government troops can "suppress the resistance of ten Avturkhanovs." The opposition is just as optimistic in assessing their chances of victory.

The latest statements by the republic's top officials indicate that the ruling regime is making additional efforts to win over the population's sympathies. The general prosecutor is promising an amnesty for another large group of convicts in connection with the third anniversary of the Chechen revolution. It is a question of "political prisoners" convicted back during the Soviet period. The planned public execution of people sentenced to death for various crimes has been canceled in the capital.

President Dudayev, on the basis of his recent statements, has become somewhat more indulgent toward opposition leaders and is even willing to have mercy on them. In his view, D. Zavgayev, R. Labazanov, R. Khasbulatov, and U. Avturkhanov will be able to rehabilitate themselves if they do their duty to the Chechen people and do not fire on their brothers. In a word their fate is now wholly dependent on how they behave in the "Russian-Chechen conflict."

Will the leaders of the opposition groupings be willing to heed this advice? Judging by recent reports, they will not. Khasbulatov managed to assemble oppositionists, and a detailed discussion of the mechanism for forming a coalition government is currently under way in their camp. Various sources both in presidential circles and in the opposition attest that big events are expected 30-31 August in the republic's capital.

Gantamirov Urges Dudayev to Resign

LD3008084394 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Unless Dzhokhar Dudayev tenders his resignation within eight days, he will have to be overthrown, Beslan Gantamirov, leader of one of the opposition groups told a POSTFACTUM correspondent in an exclusive interview.

Beslan Gantamirov is a former mayor of Groznyy, and at one time supported Dzhokhar Dudayev, but then went over to the opposition.

The opposition will ask Dudayev to resign, Beslan Gantamirov said. If that does not help, we will adapt our stance. We estimate that Dudayev has 5-600 armed supporters prepared to defend him, while the opposition has, overall, two to three times as many men, Gantamirov pointed out.

Provisional Council Sets Up Local Administrations

LD3008170294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1642 GMT 30 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Znamenskoye (Chechnya's Nadterechny region) August 29 [as received] TASS—Administrative bodies of the Provisional Council have been set up in two more regions of Chechnya—the city of Argun and the village of Nozhai-Yurt, the press service of the Provisional Council reported on Tuesday. According to the press service, in compliance with the decree on state power bodies and on the basis of the resolutions of meetings of these regional centers' residents, Umar Avturkhanov signed on Tuesday an instruction recognizing the powers of the provisional councils in these regions.

Thus, administrative bodies of the Provisional Council are functioning in four out of 14 Chechnya's regions. The main task of these bodies is to revive local enterprises and farms, pay out delayed pensions and wages and prepare schools for the new academic year.

According to the press service data, Saifudiy Aksaktemirov became head of the opposition power bodies in Argun and Idris Edilkhanov became head of the provisional council in Nozhai-Yurt. Commander of an Argun armed opposition unit Ruslan Labazanov supported the new authorities.

Chechen Opposition Units Move Closer to Groznyy

LD2908120194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1049 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Znamenskoye (Chechnya) August 29 TASS—The Chechen opposition claimed Monday that its armed units had approached the suburbs of Groznyy.

The press centre of the opposition provisional council told TASS that, after an overnight attack, troops loyal to President Dzhokhar Dudayev had to leave their post near the village of Pervomayskaya. One artillery piece was seized, the source added.

The press centre qualified the operation as "the opposition's first military success since last week's abortive attempt to blockade the Chechen capital from the north, during which the opposition lost two tanks".

TASS has not been able so far to receive an official confirmation of the report from Dudayev's administration.

FCS, Chechen Security Discuss Officer's Release

LD3008202094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Members of Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) met with representatives of Chechnya's Security Department at Beslan airport in North Ossetia on Tuesday. They discussed the possible release of a FCS officer captured by the Chechens.

On Monday [29 August] the FCS admitted that an officer had been seized. On Sunday [28 August] this was indirectly confirmed by President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who said in a televised interview that he had been informed of the activity of a Russian counterintelligence colonel against the Chechen Republic.

According to sources in Grozny, the possibility of exchanging the colonel for the leader of the Chechen opposition, Umar Avturkhanov, was under consideration. Interfax has no confirmation of this allegation.

Ministry Cannot Impose Chechnya State of Emergency

LD3008120994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1030 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Ministry for Emergencies does not have the authority to impose a state of emergency in Chechnya and does not intend to do so. An official statement by the press service of the Ministry for Emergencies circulated today notes that only the president of Russia can impose a state of emergency on the territory of the country or on part of it.

The statement by the Ministry for Emergencies is connected with an article in today's issue of the SEGODNYA paper which claims, with reference to "a trustworthy source in the Kremlin, that troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry for Emergencies could be used in Chechnya. [no closing quotation mark received]

Troops of the Ministry for Emergencies have never resolved tasks involving the use of force and they do not have the weapons for this, except for personal weapons, the document notes. At the moment, these forces are being used to combat cholera: purifying water and delivering medicines.

In the view of Sergey Shoygu, the head of the Ministry for Emergencies, "such incompetent remarks in the mass media do nothing to help settle the situation in Chechnya. At this juncture, this is unforgivable, both for politicians and for journalists."

Shakhray 'Secret Operation' Alleged in Chechnya

MK3008095994 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer under the "conspiracy" rubric: "Russian Unity Is Creeping Into Chechnya. Stratification of the Power Agencies in Moscow Could Lead to a Catastrophe in the Caucasus"]

[Text] The incomprehensible development of events in the last couple of weeks in Chechnya—threatening declarations, the sounds of the war drums, and the nearly complete imitation of either a civil war or a revolution of "liberation," accompanied by a nearly complete absence of concrete actions—has a perfectly reasonable explanation. But this explanation must be sought not in Groznyy, but in Moscow. From a dependable source in the Kremlin it has become known that a group of highly placed Moscow politicians has decided to provide themselves with a temporary diversion and actively take up trying to solve the Chechen problem, not bothering themselves with legal formalities.

Avturkhanov's provisional council in Znamenskoye is receiving "all kinds of help" from Russia, and not only in the form of money "for the payment of pensions and wages" as was officially announced. In the Units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS] and the Ministry of Defense stationed in the North Caucasus they are looking for "volunteers" for the provisional council. There are reports that General Kotenkov is directly involved in this at the behest of his senior comrade from the government and the Party of Russian Unity and Accord [PRES], Sergey Shakhray.

At the moment it is hard to say how just the accusations are, but they at least explain why last Friday Sergey Shakhray stated with such assurance at a press conference that "in reality there are 120 men to defend Dudayev while Umar Avturkhanov has three spetsnaz battalions." Where would the vice-premier without portfolio get such precise information? In Moscow, serious analysts of the official power structures [silovye struktury] think that Avturkhanov's real combat potential is insignificant. This explains the impotent tactics of the "reasonable" Chechens in opposition to Dudayev. The recruitment of Russian officers as volunteers, according to reports, is going very poorly, and therefore the Shakhray's threatening "spetsnaz battalions" are only pretending to be active, thus earning the money they have received.

But in the event that Avturkhanov's host is completely unsuccessful, the "hot heads" in Moscow have prepared an alternative—use of MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS and Ministry of Emergency Situations [MES] troops under the general leadership, without doubt, of the MES, inasmuch as this ministry could declare a state of emergency independently. All the more so given the additional pretext of cholera. Such a transformation of the MES into a power structure [silovaya struktura], would obviously correspond to the ambitions of the organization itself. Recently the MES officially submitted the question of the creation within the ministry of an additional 60 generals' slots, as well as the development of its own rapid deployment forces.

But if the secret enthusiasts continue to attempt to solve the Chechen problem, then shame and defeat await Russia in the Caucasus, as in the fall of 1991 during the time of the first emergency situation in Chechnya. The Dudayev forces are already seizing from the battalions of "our" opposition, our own armored military equipment.

And if the secret operation in Chechnya suddenly leads to success, the essence of the regime in Groznyy will not change. Labazanov and the other temporary allies of the "hot heads" in Moscow will not lay down their weapons after their victory over Dudayev and go off peacefully to live as herders and farmers. It is impossible to build Russian statehood on a policy of hiring one group of bandits to fight another.

For three years now a military separatist rebellion has reigned, undermining the basis of law and statehood in Russia. President Yeltsin should long ago, in accordance with the constitution, have put an end to the pirate republic of Dudayev with direct and legal methods. The more so as now there are more than enough Ministry of Defense and MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS troops available. But Boris Yeltsin shies away from a serious solution, closing his eyes to the illegal actions of the "enthusiasts" who are forced to act at their own risk like Colonel Oliver North.

Probably then, it really would better to separate off from Chechnya with a "great wall of China," than to pretend to be neutral while the "hot heads" act on the sly. Moreover, purely defensive tactics have never lead to victory in the war with an organized crime grouping which has constituted itself into an independent republic. Any, even the most solid border, can be crossed with enough money, and then the one who crosses can return to a safe haven on the other side. Moreover, to imprison nearly a million people, the majority of whom are innocent residents (including more than a hundred thousand Russians) in one great prison camp with a bunch of pirates is unjust and unmerciful.

Shakhray Remarks on Dudayev Fate

MM2908133194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Best Solution Is Voluntary Resignation"]

[Text] The possibility of political dialogue with Dzhokhar Dudayev is exhausted, so said Sergey Shakhray, vice premier of the Russian Federation Government, yesterday.

Sergey Shakhray considers Dudayev's resignation and democratic elections to be the optimum means of settling the Chechen crisis.

The vice premier said that at present the government is holding consultations with the Chechen Interim Council. The government has already granted the Interim Council 1.5 billion rubles for the payment of pensions. According to Sergey Shakhray, the Interim Council already "controls a considerable proportion of the territory." According to the vice premier, Dzhokhar Dudayev "will in reality be defended by 120 people whereas the Interim Council currently has around 1,000 armed defenders."

"Dudayev only controls downtown Groznyy." The vice premier noted that in the prevailing situation Dudayev still has a chance of making a dignified exit from the game. He did not, admittedly, say what kind of chance.

Touching on the emergent political alliance between Khasbulatov and Labazanov, the leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord stressed: "I would not draw hasty conclusions that a 'Khasbulatov-Labazanov tandem' has developed once and for all. The very fact of the Russian ex-speaker's having met with Labazanov does not mean anything. Khasbulatov has merely visited that part of Chechnya controlled by Labazanov's grouping."

Cossacks At Odds Over Dudayev-Don Cossack Deal

LD3008132594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1253 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Stavropol August 30 TASS—The leaders of some Cossack armies in southern Russia in the Stavropol, Tersk and Kuban areas have expressed bafflement in connection with the recent signing in Groznyy of an agreement between Chechen president Dzhokhar Dudayev and the leaders of the Great Don Cossack army.

The agreement had been drafted in camera, without notifying the Cossacks residing in the flashpoints of ethnic tension, the Cossacks said in a message addressed to the Don peers and published by the media in the Stavropol territory.

Armed gangs formed on Chechen territory "make forays into neighbouring Stavropol territory, take hostages, kill people, steal animals, farm produce and equipment," the message says.

"To counter Chechnya's policy, the Stavropol Cossacks had to post pickets at the border with the Chechen republic and to announce that, if Chechnya continued to ignore the norms of inter-ethnic communication, they will exercise their right to self-defense".

The Stavropol Cossacks asked their brethren of the Don army to "clear up the position of the leadership of the Great Don Cossack army". According to them, their position is fraught with rifts in the Cossack ranks.

Shaymiyev Assesses Moscow-Kazan Treaty

MK3008102994 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under the "Festival" rubric: "Tatarstan Celebrates Independence Day. Nationalists Do Not Have Enough Sovereignty, Federalists—Not Enough Democracy"]

[Text] Four years ago this day—30 August 1990—the Tataria [Tatarstan] Supreme Soviet passed a Declaration of Sovereignty. This day has been proclaimed a holiday in the republic. In the morning, a festive horse race will take place at the Kazan race-course (reportedly to be contested by a horse owned by Boris Yeltsin), and afterward an evening sabantuy [Tatar national festival] is scheduled to be held at the central stadium.

Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev has said in an interview for your SEGODNYA correspondent that "Tatarstan considers itself part of Russia's single economic space, but during these years it has learned to tread its own, more or less independent economic path." Mr. Shaymiyev sees the main characteristic feature of the "independent economic path" as a "slower" transition to a market economy than in other republics. Thanks to "the softening of reform," Mintimer Shaymiyev believes, Tatarstan's population will have "a shorter period of transition difficulties than the rest of the country." Tatarstan's president even said that he hopes "to scramble out" of this period "earlier than others."

President Mintimer Shaymiyev said that "since Tatarstan is a republic that does not rely on subsidies," the power-sharing treaty with Russia did not entail any serious economic consequences. The main result of signing the treaty, the president said, has so far been Moscow's resumption of financing "federal projects" in Tatarstan on a regular basis and promises "to count toward" Tatarstan's budget, the money the local leadership has spent on these purposes.

Meanwhile, supporters of Tatarstan's national associations are certain of the "shackling" nature of bilateral agreements with Moscow. All-Tatar Public Center [ATPC] sympathizers marked the fourth anniversary of proclaiming sovereignty by issuing a special statement accusing the republic's leadership of backing away from the original policy of sovereignty. The ATPC demanded that the republic's power agencies be placed under the jurisdiction of the local authorities, that the republic's national security concept based on neutrality be adopted, and that Tatarstan emerge on the world stage as a subject of international law. The ATPC's festive statement says that "the republic has slid back into the position of a rear guard of the bankrupt Russian policy."

The local democrats, who presently more often call themselves federalists," have also accused Tatarstan's leadership of making a mess of the economy, but they see the reason for the crisis in "the blocking of all-Russian reform by local bureaucrats." Leaders of the "Russian Federation Citizens" movement claim that authority in the republic is concentrated "in the hands of the former national party elite which pursues reform, if any, only if it suits its interests."

In several months, elections for a new parliament are scheduled to take place in Tatarstan. Tatar political parties may probably join forces to make sure that elections are held for a bicameral parliament, half of which will be made of representatives of political associations. A statute on elections is yet to be passed by the incumbent Supreme Soviet. However, Mintimer Shaymiyev asserted, "as a last-resort measure, if the deputies are unable to work out the election rules, Tatarstan's president will have to introduce them by decree."

Enterprise Defrauds State Budget of R1 Billion

MM3008135394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 25 Aug 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by Aleksey Deryabin, identified by caption]

[Text] For a relatively long time, the main output of the Frunze Engine Building Production Association in Samara—rocket engines, which largely determine the country's technological and defense potential—were sold by a corporate body, a certain limited-liability company by the name of ERAD. A check by the Samara Inspection and Auditing Administration has revealed that the main task of the company attached to the defense plant was to act as a go-between, or, to put it more simply, to conclude fictitious agreements making it possible to filch hundreds of millions of rubles from the state budget. Funds received from the Russian Space Agency went straight into ERAD's pockets. Allegedly, one of Russia's largest production associations was short of materials and manpower.

According to financial experts' opinion, the state has been defrauded of just under 1 billion rubles. Criminal proceedings have been instituted.

Cash Shortage Delays Housing for Servicemen

MM3008134994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Aug 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report from Samara Oblast by Aleksey Deryabin]

[Text] Some 510 families of Russian officers celebrated house warmings today. This event has been patiently awaited for 18 months at the Chernorechye military garrison, where the headquarters and the main units of the 2nd Guards Army have been stationed since their withdrawal from Germany. The housing project is being funded by the German side, but the actual construction work is being done by Turkish builders. It is hoped that all officers' families, which have been resettled in the Volga Military District since their withdrawal from Germany, will soon be able to live in civilized conditions. This was meant to happen eight months ago. But, as usual, the Turkish construction workers were let down by local subcontractors. There are even greater problems with the construction of housing for families of officers being withdrawn from former union republics.

The military construction workers in the Volga Military District currently need 40 billion rubles just to settle debts. And so a considerable number of service families are still living in temporary shelters.

Orenburg Oblast Harvest Hindered

MM3008134594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Ivan Gavrilenko: "Peasants Are Indignant...."]

[Excerpt] Orenburg Oblast—At the door of one of the offices in the oblast center, I bumped into V. Yeremenko, chief of Svetlinskiy Rayon's Virgin Lands Administration. When I asked him the question, now an importunate one: "Has the harvest begun?", he answered laconically: "Not yet. The grain is still green." But it was nearly the end of August. About an hour after our discussion, the monotonous icy rain—fall rain—started. You wonder how and when the farmers here will do the threshing? And indeed in the whole virgin land area in the east of the oblast.

The situation in the long-established zones is slightly better; there the cutting of the grain has already been going on for several weeks, and in some places even a month. The process is close to conclusion in Ilekskiy Rayon, only the late crops remain to be dealt with. Tashlinsky Rayon's farmers are also on the last lap. But this is more like the exception than the rule: At the beginning of the last 10 days of August, out of the 3.5 million hectares of grain in the oblast, only 500,000 hectares had been harvested.

Who or what is to blame for this?

Yes, of course, the weather is bad. Right now torrential rain has swept over almost one-half of the oblast. But you wonder when did the weather humor the farmers in this area? This means that the reason why the harvest has been proceeding at a snail's pace must be sought elsewhere. And primarily in the poor technical backup. In previous years, there were up to 22,000 "Yenisey," "Kolos," and "Niva" combine harvesters working in the fields at the same time, but now only around 13,000 are registered. No one can say for sure how many machines are in actual fact threshing. But you can make assumptions. Last week just over 30,000 hectares a day on average were threshed in the oblast. This year's grain, which is by and large very good, is turning out to be beyond the powers of the worn-out fleet of combine harvesters.

The oblast administration, in the person of Deputy Head A. Zilenskiy, is trying to overcome the situation. Leasing contracts have been concluded so that the oblast can be urgently supplied with over 1,000 "Don" combine harvesters. "Rostselmash" Director Peskov himself has visited the oblast. Machine-building offices have started operating in the rayons, and spare parts from Rostov are being brought in by truck. But you get the impression that it is a bit late to do this, and it will scarcely prove possible to make up for lost time.

And another misfortune is fuel. A few days ago, I happened to travel several kilometers along the steppe roads. During this whole journey I did not come across a single harvesting machine or pickup baler in operation. In many places, combine harvesters are standing with empty tanks. And not because the oil installations have run out. It is just that the peasants can no longer afford the fuel prices.

Kuban Supplements Federal Wheat Stocks

MM3008103594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zhilyakov: "Moscow Will Buy Wheat in Kuban"]

[Text] The situation as regards grain purchases for federal stocks has apparently gotten moving. Kuban grain producers have been sent an order from Moscow—the first, incidentally, since the present harvest. As Viktor Krokhmel, president of the "Kubankhleboprodukt" joint-stock company, told your ITAR-TASS correspondent, Moscow is buying in 500,000 tons of food wheat. It is prepared to pay 190,000 rubles [R] per ton of third class wheat, and 180,000 for fourth class (this sum includes the elevators' expenditure involved in receiving, storing, and releasing the grain, and taxes). As a result, the farms will receive a "clear" R147,000-150,000 per ton of food wheat. This is R40,000-50,000 less than the farmers would like, but at the moment they have no other buyer and will be forced to sell the grain at this price.

Discussion on Ossetia Refugee Problem

LD3008205394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1412 GMT 30 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 30 Aug—The situation in the state of emergency zone and ways of solving the refugee problem were the main subjects discussed at a meeting in Vladikavkaz today between Akhsarbek Galazov, president of the Republic of North Ossetia, and Vladimir Lozovoy, the head of the provisional administration. It was attended by members of a republican commission which has been instructed, together with the provisional administration and a commission of the Republic of Ingushetia, to examine and tackle all questions concerning the problem of the return of refugees.

Setting out the Ossetian side's position, Galazov noted that the procedure for the return and resettlement of refugees and forced settlers, which was signed by the presidents of North Ossetia and Ingushetia and the head of the provisional administration, is the main one for a comprehensive solution to the refugee problem. At the same time North Ossetia cannot consent to this process being pushed through and to a solution to questions being made from a position of strength. Harmonious and considered actions by the leadership of the Republic of North Ossetia and the provisional administration are necessary.

The president of North Ossetia stressed that the return of people to areas where they have nowhere to live and other necessary conditions for their survival have not been created can aggravate the sociopolitical situation in the conflict zone, where a state of emergency is in force until 30 September. He also noted the insufficient financing of construction work in North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy rayon.

In tackling the problem of stabilizing the situation in the conflict zone, Akhsarbek Galazov went on, one should not disregard the extremely complex and contradictory situation in neighboring Chechnya, which may affect the state of emergency zone and the whole of southern Russia.

No. Ossetian Censorship Planned in Emergency Zone

LD3008210394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Vladimir Lozovoy, head of the provisional administration of a part of North Ossetia and Ingushetia in the rank of deputy chairman of the Russian Government [as heard], has issued a decree introducing censorship on information covering events in the zone of the state of emergency. The document notes that censorship requirements are mandatory for all the media, including central ones.

Alarmed by the re-emergence of the word "censorship," journalists and heads of publications, radio, and television from Ossetia and Ingushetia met Yuriy Kamenev, head of the provisional administration's censorship department. The chief censor clarified that although being extraordinary, the measure had been introduced in order to prevent publications containing calls for violations of the emergency regime and aiming to stir up inter-ethnic strife, aggravate the situation in the zone of conflict, and discredit the federal bodies of power as well as forces loyal to the provisional administration. Defiance in the face of censorship can entail serious consequences, and journalists working in this hot spot of Russia had to obey the decree of the head of provisional administration in order not to bring new troubles to people who are tired of the consequences of the conflict.

Doctors Tried For Pacific Fleet Cadet Deaths

MM3108092594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Natalya Barabash: "Russkiy Island 'Doctors Case'"]

[Text] Vladivostok—The trial involving the much-publicized death of cadets from hunger and beatings in the winter of 1993 on Russkiy island has finally begun in Vladivostok in the Pacific Fleet military court.

It is true that there are only two accused in the dock and they are both doctors: Medical Service Colonel V. Feoktistov, senior house surgeon at the Pacific Fleet chief hospital's infectious diseases department, and I. Svidin, former chief of the medical service at the communications school in which one cadet died. They are charged with neglect of their duty entailing grave consequences—death.

There will soon also be a trial of doctors from the notorious radio engineering school in which three cadets died and many contracted pneumonia and acute dysentery.

But one wonders why it is the medical workers who have been the first officials to stand trial in this case: After all, it was not under their direct leadership that the cadets were beaten up.

Meanwhile, the newspaper VLADIVOSTOK reported, at the trial the communications school's former commander, A. Rostovkin, now promoted to the post of deputy chief of a department of the Pacific Higher Naval School, is giving evidence, and according to him this is the first time he has heard of the proceeding instituted against him only in July of this year. Criminal proceedings against V. Geshelev, commander of the radio engineering school, (three cadets died at this school and the others all suffered from dystrophy and disease) and against V. Denisenko, former assistant commander of the Pacific Fleet, have been halted... in connection with the amnesty since the above-mentioned men took part in the fulfillment of their international duty.

Thus the case of the criminal rampaging of "hazing" in the Pacific Fleet training subunits and the blatant robbing of hungry cadets has become another "case of doctors" who provided poor treatment for exhausted, beaten up boys.

International Affairs

Kiev, Moscow Negotiate Cooperation Agreement

LD3008143894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Alexey Petrunya—TASS]

[Text] Kiev August 30 TASS—Negotiations between delegations of Ukraine and Russia began here on Tuesday to draft and prepare for the signing the text of an agreement between the governments of Ukraine and Russia on cooperation in culture, science and education. The Ukrainian delegation is headed by chief of the agency for cultural relations of the Foreign Ministry Oleg Dyachenko. The Russian delegation is headed by deputy chief of the cultural relations department of the Foreign Ministry Aleksandr Tkachenko.

Mutual understanding reigns at the negotiations. There are no differences of principle, Dyachenko said. The text should be ready in two days.

The drafting of the agreement that is planned to be signed during the upcoming official visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Kiev was preceded by intensive work and consultations with appropriate ministries and departments.

The first round of the negotiations was held in March in Moscow. The signing of the agreement will create a legal basis for a broad range of cultural relations between the two states, Dyachenko said. It will specifically be regulating educational matters, cooperation in preserving and restoring cultural and artistic legacy and creation of conditions for equal development of Ukrainian culture for Russian citizens of the Ukrainian origin and of Russian culture for Ukrainian citizens who are ethnic Russians.

Udovenko: Ukraine 'Poses No Threat' to Russia

MM3008121594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "New Ukrainian Foreign Minister Is Familiar with Foreign Countries. He Has Spent a Large Part of His Life Abroad"]

[Text] Anatoliy Zlenko remained as head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry for only six weeks following Leonid Kuchma's victory in the presidential elections. As was to be expected, the new president has signed an edict dismissing the minister whose name was too strongly associated with Leonid Kravchuk.

Zlenko's successor is 62-year-old Hennadiy Udovenko, one of Ukraine's best-known diplomats. The new minister has spent a large part of his adult life abroad. For six years Udovenko was the Ukrainian SSR's [Soviet Socialist Republic] permanent representative at the United Nations. After the collapse of the Union he in effect discharged the duties of Ukrainian ambassador to the United States. He then headed the Warsaw Embassy where, in the opinion of journalists, he acquitted himself very well, especially at the height of the scandal connected with the exposure of Major Lysenko, who worked for the Ukrainian intelligence service.

Until Kuchma's edict is endorsed by parliament, Udovenko will remain "acting" minister. The new minister's policy will scarcely differ sharply from his predecessor's course. Zlenko's activity caused no serious censure, Kuchma's sole reproach against the Foreign Ministry was that Ukraine's foreign policy was too "limp," it lacked "resolution and assertiveness."

IZVESTIYA's interlocutors in Kiev suggested that the galvanizing of Ukrainian diplomacy would see the establishing of closer links with the republics of the CIS, the countries of East Europe, the EU [European Union], and particularly the United States, given the new minister's first-hand knowledge of the U.S. political scene. As far as Russia is concerned, it was a priority area of foreign policy under Zlenko, and will undoubtedly remain so under Udovenko.

IZVESTIYA was told at the Russian Foreign Ministry that they hope to find a common language easily with the new minister. It has to be said that Andrey Kozyrev experienced no special problems in contacts with Zlenko.

As our correspondent Leonid Kornilov reported from Warsaw, Udovenko has held his first press conference in his new capacity. "Russia should understand that a democratic and economically strong Ukraine poses no threat to it," he said. "Our countries should be equal partners, no one can tell us what we should or not do." Udovenko recalls his work at the United Nations without enthusiasm: "Whether Ukraine said something or not from the UN rostrum, the Soviet representative decided. It was humiliating."

Prospects for Visit of Russia's Shokhin

LD3008204694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent has been told at the press service of Ukraine's Economy Ministry that it is expected that Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin will visit Ukraine on 2 September.

On 1 September, a delegation of representatives of Russian ministries and departments at the level of officials in charge of CIS departments will arrive in Kiev. They will be joined by Ukraine's Economy Ministry specialists to finalize a number of inter-state economic agreements such as, in particular, documents on mutually protecting investment, preventing double taxation, forming financial and industrial groups and transnational corporations, improving the regime of free trade, and achieving reciprocal convergence of customs policies etc.

It is planned that, during his visit, Aleksandr Shokhin will meet Ukraine's Premier Vitaliy Masol and Economy Minister Roman Shpek.

It is possible that in Crimea Aleksandr Shokhin will meet Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov.

This visit by a Russian delegation is a logical continuation of Ukrainian Economy Minister Roman Shpek's and Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk's working visit to Moscow on 18-20 August, where a broad range of issues relating to economic cooperation between Ukraine and Russia were discussed.

The administration of the Ukrainian president has announced that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Kiev has been postponed from the end of September until the beginning of October, and is tentatively set for 1-5 October.

Delegation's Central Asian Visit Discussed

LD3008195094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1615 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev, 30 Aug—Hennadiy Udovenko, Ukraine's acting minister of foreign affairs is unlikely to hold any major news conference prior to his candidacy's approval by the Supreme Council of Ukraine. This was a statement made at a briefing for journalists on current issues of Ukrainian foreign policy at Ukraine's Foreign Ministry.

At the briefing, primary attention was paid to the results of a Ukrainian Foreign Ministry delegation's visit to the Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. Oleksandr Tkachenko, chief adviser to the foreign minister at the head of the Ukrainian delegation, said that some of the most important questions that had been addressed were the problem of multilateral cooperation between CIS states, bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Ukraine and the states of the region, and the legal and contractual basis of bilateral cooperation. Negotiations emphasized the sides' substantial interest in establishing effective bilateral relations in the economy and trade.

In Kazakhstan, members of the visiting Ukrainian delegation were familiarized with the operation of the trilateral treaty between Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, aimed at extending cooperation at a regional level in various spheres. The possibility was also discussed of Ukraine's accession to some of the agreement's clauses such as those on economic cooperation and interstate settlements.

In Kyrgyzstan, the delegation of Ukraine looked at aspects of cooperation in the field of education, science, culture, and defense. It was pointed out at the negotiations that Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev's idea of forming a Eurasian Union needed finalization and at present could not compete with that of the CIS. It was also said that an interstate agreement on friendship and cooperation was likely to be concluded by Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev on his forthcoming visit to Ukraine.

In Uzbekistan, the delegation, in particular, dealt with preventing double taxation and furthering cooperation in the spheres of education, culture, and science. Another delegation of experts due to leave for that state will work on a cooperation agreement between our states for 1995.

Agreements To Be Signed

LD3008213994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 30 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] During its tour of Central Asia a Ukrainian government delegation agreed to sign a number of treaties with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in the near future.

A senior foreign ministry official, Alexander Taranenko, told a Tuesday briefing in Kiev that with Kazakhstan an agreement on cooperation in culture, science and technology for 1995 is going to be concluded as well as a consular agreement. The Kazakh side also submitted a draft document on the prevention of double taxation.

With Kyrgyzstan a consular agreement should be signed as well as agreements in education, science, culture as well as military-technical cooperation. The sides will also have a protocol on consultations between foreign ministries and a full-scale political treaty.

Ukraine and Uzbekistan will have an agreement preventing dual citizenship as well as agreements in science, education, culture and sports.

Jiang Zemin, Kuchma To Hold Talks 6-8 Sep

LD3008131094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1150 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—PRC President Jiang Zemin will pay his first official visit to Ukraine 6-8 September, Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center told UNIAN on 30 August. The Chinese delegation will include the vice premier of China's State Council, Foreign Affairs Minister Qian Qichen, State Planning Commission head, Chen Jinhua, and other officials.

The program of the visit includes meetings and negotiations with Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz, Prime minister Vitaliy Masol, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadiy Udovenko.

The two sides plan to sign the following documents: A joint Ukrainian-Chinese communique, an intergovernmental agreement on commercial maritime shipping, an agreement between the Ukrainian and Chinese communications ministries on cooperation in postal and electronic communications, an agreement between Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs and China's Ministry of Public Security, and an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the sphere of environmental protection.

New Thoroughfare To Run From Lisbon to Kiev

AU3008165894 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 27 Aug 94 p 8

[Report attributed to unidentified INTERFAX-UKRAYINA correspondent: "The Tender for Building the 'Lisbon-Kiev' Thoroughfare"]

[Text] In October, Ukraine's Ministry of Transportation will be offering a tender for building the Ukrainian stretch of the "Lisbon-Kiev" thoroughfare. As an INTERFAX-UKRAYINA correspondent was told at the Ministry of Transportation, by the beginning of August the first stage of the technological and economic substantiation of the project for building the Ukrainian stretch of the trans-European thoroughfare had been completed.

The building of the new highway was planned by an international consortium on the basis of concessions—the agreement on leasing land for 20-25 years with a possible extension of up to 50 years. The firms Enka (Turkey), Mitsubishi (Japan), as well as Canadian, Italian, and other firms have already shown interest in the project.

The Italian firm SPEA and the British firm Rendel are conducting preparatory work at the request of the commission of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. They have allocated, respectively, 160,000 ECU and 680,000 ECU. Specialists have estimated that the building of the 735-km long highway on the territory of Ukraine will cost about $7 billion. Users will have to pay a toll.

National Affairs

Americium-241 Reportedly Found Near Chernobyl

AU3008134294 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 27 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Olena Alikhanyan: "Has Americium-241 Been 'Apprehended' at Chernobyl?"]

[Text] The statement by Valeriy Kopeykin, a professor from Kazan [capital of Tatarstan] to the effect that americium-241, a new radioactive element that is extremely dangerous to humans was found around the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant [AES] has alarmed the Ukrainian public. At the request of the UKRINFORM correspondent, Viktor Sedletskyy, president of the Ukrainian Association of Independent Scientists, and Yuriy Solomatin, expert of the Interdepartmental Commission for Radiation Control, commented on the situation.

According to Viktor Sedletskyy, americium-241, which has a half-life of about 430 years, is extremely toxic and causes mutations in living organisms. It is a product of plutonium decay, readily dissolves in water, and, for that reason, easily migrates. The element was not only found in the Chernobyl zone, but also in Kiev. The scientist is surprised that too much americium has been detected. He explains this phenomenon by the inaccurate data on the balance of fuel ejected into the environment during the accident.

Information also appeared to the effect that scientists had also "apprehended" americium-242. This element only exists for 16 hours, but it has such a small critical mass that it may explode even in negligibly small quantities. Some specialists believe that the Chernobyl sarcophagus, which is protecting the world from the destroyed reactor, is cracking and falling to pieces precisely due to the microexplosions of americium-242, which accumulates at its walls.

Viktor Sedletskyy states the following: Even though the state of the sarcophagus had been threatening all along, the emergence of americium further exacerbates the situation. At what rate will it spread from the zone? Is an explosion at the Chernobyl AES possible? The scientist does not have answers to these questions, because this radioactive element has hardly been studied at all. It appears that even now nobody is going to study it for lack of funds.

Yuriy Solomatin called the reports on americium "artificial dissemination on a nationwide scale of genuine Chernobyl masochism." He believes that it is irresponsible to inflict an unjustified psychological trauma upon the people of Ukraine before the problem is investigated and proceeding from rumors. This, the scientist pointed out, is not simply a new spiral of radiophobia, as it may seem at first glance. Who needs this and who will be held responsible for this? the expert asks.

The opinion of the ordinary people who live in the contaminated zone and who are affected by it, like the present UKRINFORM correspondent considers himself to be, is as follows. If the life and health of people depend upon resolving a problem, the craziest hypotheses may be criticized, but they must also be verified. Only in that case one may be confident in the future of our young independent state and in the health of its people.

Presidential Edict on Currency Regulation

AU3008114994 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Aug 94 p 4

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Improving Currency Regulation" issued on 22 Aug]

[Text] Proceeding from the need to create favorable conditions to promote the development of external economic ties, stimulate export, enhance freely convertible currency inflow to Ukraine, reduce the volume of unessential imports, develop an internal currency market, and in order to establish a single currency exchange rate of the Ukrainian karbovanets relative to foreign currencies in accordance with the results of auctions at Ukraine's Interbank Currency Market, I resolve as follows:

1. Ukraine's National Bank and Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers must do the following:

Ensure, in the second half of 1994, the gradual equalization and unification of the official and market exchange rates of the Ukrainian karbovanets with regard to foreign currencies and the mechanism for establishing boundary coefficients of deviation of the official currency exchange rate from that prevailing on the market.

2. To determine that, prior to introducing a single currency exchange rate of the Ukrainian karbovanets relative to foreign currencies, the procedure for introducing the official currency exchange rate be established by Ukraine's National Bank in coordination with Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

The determination of the official currency exchange rate of the Ukrainian karbovanets relative to foreign currencies is conducted within limits determined by boundary coefficients of its deviation from the market rate of exchange and is carried out by Ukraine's National Bank in coordination with Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers taking into account the level of internal inflation, volumes of monetary emission, and the state of Ukraine's payments and trade balances.

3. Ukraine's National Bank, with the participation of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, must elaborate and implement measures for increasing official currency reserves in order to support a single currency exchange rate for the Ukrainian karbovanets relative to foreign currencies. For this purpose, Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties must elaborate and approve measures for reducing imports.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers must ensure the holding of negotiations with international financial organizations to seek a more rapid granting of the necessary financial assistance and credits to the Ukrainian government in 1994.

4. To resume, from 1 October 1994, foreign currency auctions at the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange.

5. To establish that foreign currency earnings, which are obtained by residents and which are subject to compulsory sale (50 percent of the total sum of the receipts) are distributed in the following way:

Ten percent (in accordance with the market exchange rate)—to official currency reserves of Ukraine's National Bank;

Thirty percent (in accordance with the official exchange rate)—through the Interdepartmental Committee for Issues of Determining Priorities in Currency Utilization;

Ten percent (in accordance with the market exchange rate)—at Ukraine's Interbank Currency Market.

6. Ukraine's National Bank and Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers must elaborate, within a month, measures for decentralizing Ukraine's Interbank Currency Market.

7. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, in coordination with Ukraine's National Bank, must introduce, within 10 days, changes into the Regulations on the Interdepartmental Committee for Questions of Determining Priorities in Using Hard Currency. These changes are expected to ensure, prior to establishing a single currency exchange rate for the Ukrainian karbovanets with regard to foreign currencies, the procedure for procuring foreign currency to purchase, by import, gas, oil, nuclear fuel, nonferrous metals, means of plant and animal protection, medicines and raw and other materials for manufacturing them, and also to repay the state external debt, dues, and charges stipulated by Ukraine's international agreements.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers must elaborate and approve, within 10 days, Regulations on the Procedure for Holding Competition Contracts in which it must, in particular, establish priorities and corresponding norms in distributing the currency, the procedure for making expert analyses of contracts and criteria for their admission to the competition.

It must also be determined in the above regulations that the utilization by residents of the currency capital in ways other than those specified or with violations of the terms of the competition entails sanctions in the form of fines equal to the triple sum equivalent to that of the currency capital in Ukrainian currency that was effective in the morning on the day of carrying out such operations. If state enterprises are such residents, this also places responsibility upon their leaders.

8. Ukraine's National Bank, with the participation of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, must elaborate and adopt, within a month, measures for intensifying supervision over the adherence to conditions and procedures for holding auctions at Ukraine's Interbank Currency market. Sanctions must be stipulated for their violation.

9. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers must revise, within 10 days, the normative timetable for returning currency earnings from export contracts, in accordance with the existing procedures, taking into account types and forms of conditions for deliveries and conditions for payments, as well as the international experience on these issues.

10. The present edict is effective from the day of its signing. [Signed]Ukrainian President L. Kuchma [Dated]Kiev, 22 August 1994

Kuchma Replaces TV, Radio Chief

LD3008164494 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] We have just received two directives by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. One of them relieves Mykola Fedorovych Okhmakevych from the post of president of the Ukrainian state TV and radio broadcasting company. The second appoints Oleksandr Mykhaylovych Savchenko to that post.

Privatization of National TV Denied

LD3008182694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1615 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Kiev—Zinoviy Kulyk, Ukraine's state television and radio broadcasting company's [DerzhTeleRadio] acting chairman, on 30 August held a news conference at UNIAN where he denied a report on the possible sale of Ukraine's national television channels, which was reprinted by Ukrainian newspapers from the FINANCIAL TIMES. He said this was complete nonsense as Ukraine's DerzhTeleRadio was not in possession of any channels and therefore was not in a position to sell any, the more so in that the relevant laws in force banned the privatization and sale of state television and radio structures. Kulyk told journalists that in spite of hundreds of proposals to the company from foreign firms concerning the privatization and sale of channels, "none of these projects can be implemented, as at the very least a Cabinet of Ministers resolution or a presidential directive is required to do so."

Kulyk went on to say that the president of Ukraine had not yet issued any directive making structural or personnel changes to DerzhTeleRadio. His opinion, however, is that a fundamentally new structure of the company and market conditions were long since in order, without which any improvement in the quality of television and radio products was out of the question. He firmly believes that the administrative structure on television "today is uncontrollable." He personally put forward proposals for the government to introduce these changes. [passage omitted]

Slight Bread Price Rise Forecast

LD3008170794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1615 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Kiev—At a meeting with staff at Kiev's bread baking industrial production association on 30 August, Ukrainian Premier Vitaliy Masol refuted rumors of a steep increase in prices for bread products. He added that grain this year was sold to the state by the farmers at the 1993 price of 1.1 million karbovantsi per tonne. However, a slight price rise can be expected as a result of higher prices for petroleum products, transport, and commercial services etc. [passage omitted]

Asked by UNIAN correspondent about the likelihood of changes in the near future to the structure of the Cabinet of Ministers, Vitaliy Masol said that there will be changes but that the institution of deputy premiership will not be abolished. His view is that there should be another deputy premier in Ukraine, who would deal with currency regulation. Vitaliy Masol also underlined that there is a need for strict control over the economy by the state.

Socialist Leader on Political, Economic Aims

WS3008120394 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 20 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with Ivan Serhiyovych Chyzh, chairman of the Socialist Party faction in parliament, by Anatoliy Kraslyanskyy; place and date not given: "We Opt for the European Way of Development"—first paragraph is HOLOS UKRAYINY introduction]

[Text] Ivan Serhiyovych Chyzh, 42, was born and grew up in Khmelnytskyy Oblast. He began his working career as a tractor driver. After serving in the Army, he returned home and started to work as a secretary in the village council. After graduating from the journalism department at Kiev University, he worked with the rayon and then the oblast newspapers. Since 1985, Ivan Chyzh occupied a party position, acting as liaison between soviets and political and public organizations. As a Ukrainian legislative deputy, he works on the Commission for Social Policies and Labor and heads the Socialist faction in parliament. He is married with two daughters.

[Kraslyanskyy] You were elected head of the Socialist faction. What is the goal of this group in parliament?

[Chyzh] Our goals correspond perfectly with those of the Socialist Party as a whole; and it is within the scope of operations of the entire leftist bloc. We cooperate with all those who want to return life to the working people—the people who create material wealth and who should live a normal life. We are categorically against those who attempt to gain material profits at the expense of others. So, our faction coordinates the work of Supreme Council deputies representing our party and its supporters. The faction initiates and implements projects concerning social protection, removing barriers to manufacturers, and providing favorable conditions for economic development.

We are categorically against destroying something and then building something new on this wasteland. The process of creation should happen on what we have, given our national conditions, with due regard to Ukraine's distinctive socioeconomic and spiritual features. The goal of our activities includes everything that is oriented toward statehood, man, and the development of Ukraine. Our slogan is: The state for man, not man for the state.

[Kraslyanskyy] You said that you cooperated with people who are not part of your faction. Who are they?

[Chyzh] The faction itself does not only comprise Socialist Party members. It includes non-party legislators, Communists, and agrarians. We are supported by those who share our goals, which I have already pointed out. Besides, we have no animosity toward most deputies who work for the benefit of man and his interests. Everyone can see that we can no longer adopt a wait-and-see attitude. Instead, we need to make fundamental steps in our life and more aggressively ram through legislation intended to heal our society. We are with those who act and think this way.

In case your question carries some overtones about certain groupings in the Supreme Council, there are no secrets here, too. The tactics and strategy of our activities in parliament certainly demands entering different alliances, blocs, or groups, the composition of which changes depending on specific situations or issues debated at the session or in legislative commissions. There can be nothing stiff in parliament, otherwise it is doomed. Broadly speaking, if we want to change our life for the better, all of us are one whole faction bonded by a common goal. At least, this is how I would like to see the Ukrainian Supreme Council.

[Kraslyanskyy] You are often asked if you have any disagreements with the Communist Party and its faction in parliament?

[Chyzh] This question is both simple and complicated. As you know, the Socialist Party emerged after the Communist Party was banned; and it consistently demanded a lift on that ban. Our ideological principles are similar. As a matter of fact, we could do something in the Supreme Council only thanks to the balanced approach of the Communist faction members and their readiness for constructive activity, which sometimes hurt their own interests.

For example, when we were forming commissions and their leadership, we deliberately settled for less if only to unblock the operation of the Supreme Council and press ahead without stopping to divide portfolios.

Disagreements? I would not like to go deeper into this. We differ on the issue of, for example, ownership and several moral questions.

We are oriented toward the European path of development, European socialism. I think this explains everything.

[Kraslyanskyy] On what legislation is your faction currently working to more quickly address the economic crisis?

[Chyzh] As participants in Supreme Council commissions, the various factions work on virtually all proposed laws. Legislation on minimum wage, consumer budgets, and other factors directly affecting people's lives. This is what hurts us and is close to our faction. We defend the working man through legislation. Just see how large the gap is between those left below the poverty line and those living a decent life. The living standards of the latter are 50 times higher, while in other, civilized countries, it is seven to eight times higher. A country with such contrasts is doomed, it has no prospects for the future. This is what we proceed from in our activities.

We have raised the issue of repaying debts to teachers, miners, doctors, and everyone else who receives inadequate wages for their work. In addition, our faction actively worked on a strategic Supreme Council document regarding the fundamental principles of economic policies during the crisis period. [Supreme Soviet Chairman] Oleksandr Moroz delivered a report on this issue. We try to bring constructive and not destructive elements to the work of the legislature.

The Supreme Council must work instead of getting bogged down in political debates. During the first session, we resolved the main organizational issues and prepared a number of major draft laws. I am sure that the second question will promptly and efficiently examine laws which would provide an impetus to the Ukrainian economy and protect man during this difficult transition period.

Postelection Political Situation Assessed

WS3108071594 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 16, 20 Aug 94 p 3

[Article by Oleg Soskin, deputy director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations at Ukraine's Academy of Sciences: "New Actors and Roles in the Old Performance and on the Old Stage"—originally published in two parts]

[Excerpts]

The Postelection Situation in Ukraine

The exhausting marathon race to reelect all of Ukraine's branches and levels of power has come to an end. Following the salvos of triumphant salutes and the chinking of crystal glasses, the last drops of champagne and brandy have dried up, the postelection euphoria has died down, and the last patches of the pinkish blue haze of election promises have vanished. Now Ukraine—tormented by its former leaders and with a huge bouquet of acute economic, social, and political neglected diseases and problems—is again taking the historical stage.

Has anything changed in Ukraine since the elections?

First: New teams of doctors have been formed, and the hospital board has a completely new membership. Second: The old doctors and their remedies have been pronounced harmful and even dangerous for the sick old lady and her family. Third: New and totally unknown doctors, including many without any medical experience or even a license to practice, eagerly rushed forward to propose their own prescriptions and quack potions as remedies. Fourth: The sick old lady is getting even worse. Her condition has evidently become acute. However, let us drop this Aesopian language and objectively analyze the situation in post-election Ukraine through the prism of the three branches of power.

The first branch (Ukraine's Supreme Council). As of today, 393 deputies out of a total of 450 have been elected to the legislature. It seems that this number of people's deputies is sufficient for fruitful work on a professional basis. One may safely say that the legislative branch in Ukraine has stabilized. What is more, runoff elections have introduced qualitative changes in Ukraine's parliament. The communists and socialists have lost their leading positions. The parliamentary runoffs have clearly exposed trends (following the serious defeat of O. Moroz in the presidential elections) toward the complete failure of Communist-Bolshevik ideas in Ukraine. Out of the 56 deputies elected in runoff elections, there were only four Communists. At the same time, the Supreme Council was joined by many pragmatic business people, potential adherents to the market economy and private ownership. Furthermore, one can already say with confidence that two streams have begun to be formed in parliament and in Ukraine as a whole: social democratic and liberal-conservative. It is significant that both these streams are based on nationalism and the dominance of private ownership. Today, in both the west and the east, as well as the center, north, and south, there is growing comprehension of the fact that Ukraine should not be somebody's appendage, but a powerful independent democratic state with a market economy.

By October or November 1994, the social democratic and liberal-conservative streams are likely to reach full flow, and the process of the structuring of strong political parties will begin. In this connection, current Supreme Council Speaker O. Moroz may come to face serious problems. The reasons for his difficulties will lie in the following: a) a split of the communist-socialist-peasant bloc in parliament into rock-solid Bolsheviks and social democrats taking national positions; b) the aggravation of crisis in the leadership of the Socialist Party and the struggle for power between the central party nucleus and regional leaders (so far, nobody knows who will win); c) the formation of other centers of socialist ideas. First of all, this means the creation of a united social democratic party in October. Its leaders could be A. Matviyenko, A. Yemets, V. Filenko, and others. If Leonid Kravchuk, having "healed his wounds" by this time, becomes its patriarch, the left-wing internationalists may face hard times. The most probable outcome will be a split within the Communist and Socialist Parties, and the desertion of its reformist wings to a unified social democratic party. This party will form quite a strong parliamentary faction and will be a mobile force advocating a socially oriented market economy in Ukraine. Most likely, this party will be joined by a part of the peasant faction, trade union activists, government administration officials, and representatives of the Armed Forces.

The leaders of the Communist faction will also face a severe trial this fall. On the one hand, they will be blamed for the deteriorating economic situation and the betrayal of the workers' interests, while on the other, they will face a split within their ranks and crises among their leadership. The latter will considerably strengthen the processes of differentiation in the party. [Communist Party Chairman] P. Symonenko will clash with the leadership ambitions of the younger group of communist people's deputies, such as Drahomaretskyy and others. At the same time, the position of the unofficial leader, Boris Oliynyk, will be significantly strengthened. Time will tell if the Communist Party can deal with these challenging problems successfully.

A few words should also be said about the development of the liberal-conservative stream, both in Ukraine in general and in the Supreme Council in particular. This stream is extremely young in Ukraine, therefore it has yet not been comprehended by our society, nor has it developed a theoretical and methodological base applicable to Ukraine. The forces serving this stream have not yet been properly formed. This, however, is where Ukraine's future lies. Only capitalism, only all-embracing private ownership for broad segments of the population, only the personal freedom of each and every citizen of Ukraine will enable our state to heave its way out of the deadly quicksand of the Bolshevik imperialist pit.

We need to know that at times of profound social and economic change, the process of transformation is always headed by the most dedicated adherents of liberal-conservative ideas. Social democrats come to power only when the worst is over and the exhausted nation needs a break. Such is the way of the entire civilized world, where these streams follow one another in succession. Let us hope that we are already at the point of reaching the foundations of such a model.

It also needs to be noted that we are witnessing the decline of proletarian internationalism. Its social base is constituted primarily by people of advanced age who, with the disintegration of the "Soviet empire," have lost more than others. Therefore, every government should do everything possible to support pensioners. To do this, however, economic reforms have to be actually put into practice. The number of speeches on social protection delivered at the Supreme Council should be limited, and the economic liberties of the population expanded.

It seems that the liberal-conservative stream will manifest itself in parliament through the formation of a large faction of pragmatic industrialists, entrepreneurs, and kolkhoz chairmen. These forces are becoming increasingly aware of their strategic unity and the need to build a democratic society based on private ownership.

Consequently, the process of runoff elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Council will make it impossible to adopt resolutions halting privatization, increasing state interference in the national economy, or blocking the development of private ownership.

It can safely be said today that Ukraine's parliament will lose its Bolshevik nature by October 1994.

The Second Branch: Presidential Power

[Passage omitted] It is already a month since Leonid Kuchma assumed the post of Ukraine's president. Is this a long time, or a short time? From the historical point of view, it is only an instant. From the position of human life, it is sufficient time to draw the first conclusions. What are they?

First: Ukraine went through the total elections without fracas or open conflicts. The new president may be given the credit for this.

Second: L. Kuchma has managed in a short time to change the majority of the old oligarchy occupying key posts in the presidential administration. (This oligarchy included such old-timers as N. Khomenko, V. Matviyenko, A. Melnyk, and many others who have always been off screen.)

Third: The new president has managed to refill a personnel void in a very short time and create his own presidential administration.

Fourth: The president has demonstrated with the help of his edicts that he does not want to play the part of the English queen, and is ready to actively intervene in all spheres of social life to be not only a nominal head of executive branch, but also a real one.

All the above-mentioned may be listed among the president's assets. What are his liabilities?

First: The president and his entourage get down to business all at once, and constantly lose sight of the main thrust. In general, however, it is clear that the main task for the president is to create circumstances for protecting Ukraine's independence. The president is a guarantor of the Constitution, the fundamental law of the state.

In this connection, we will ask a question. Do we have a constitution of independent Ukraine? The answer, to our regret, is in the negative—we do not! So, what does the president guarantee? A code of the builder of communism of imperial times, or the fundamental law of the epoch of developed socialism? It is unclear. One would prefer some clarity here. The clarity, however, lies in the fact that the president's main task is to create a constitution for independent Ukraine. So far, as there is no such constitution, there is no guarantor of its observance either.

Second: The president's team is constantly involved in resolving petty tactical issues. This may be exemplified by the presidential edict on effective administration of the Cabinet of Ministers' activities. With your permission, does the president need to approve the daily agenda of Cabinet of Ministers' sessions? He is not a party secretary in a factory, who approves the daily agenda of party meetings in factory workshops and departments. The president's business is to determine the strategy of economic development of the country and analyze macroeconomic processes.

Third: There is no open, broad, and public competition to form the presidential administration. Why are there so many behind-closed-door appointments? Why not enter the path of contest and competition in selecting the cadres of the highest administration body? With the current nomination practice, Ukrainian citizens are at a loss: Which people assumed the highest posts in the state hierarchy? Where and in what way have they shown their worth? Why has nobody known them and heard of them? Have they accomplished some concrete deeds? Are they people of success, or are they losers? Plus, the main thing—are they Ukraine's patriots and pro-market people, or a no-land breed advocating the positions of proletarian internationalism and total imperial state ownership? These questions are being left unanswered. We live primarily on rumors and "substantial" programs of Ukrainian Television First Channel, which are impenetrable because of the armor erected by censors.

Finally, one more thing which, in my opinion, should be considered. For what do we need such a complicated and entangled structure of the presidential administration? Why does one need to follow in Leonid the First's footsteps? One of the crucial reasons for his defeat was the bulkiness and inflexibility of his administration apparatus.

The current presidential administration consists of a group of presidential advisers including experts on a broad range of issues. It also consists of a group of aides and consultants, intersecting in many problems with advisers. It also includes specialists from many departments, who duplicate to a great extent the activity of aides and advisers. Government departments are job places for many presidential deputy, chief, senior, and other consultants.

A natural question arises. Is there any need for the Cabinet of Ministers? Or, do we have too much money in the state budget?

Thus, the president's first month in office has proven that, beside the positive achievements, there are also symptoms of negative trends. The immediate future will show which direction will gain the upper hand. This will primarily depend on those people forming the core of the presidential team. Among them, the leading roles are played by the following people:

Dmytro Tabachnyk, head of the presidential administration. A serious analyst, journalist. The team's main ideologist. His deficiency, in my opinion, is the lack of experience in organization work and the management of large social and public systems.

Valeriy Pustovoytenko, minister in the Cabinet of Ministers. The president's proxy. He is a man of great organizational skills, capable of conducting extended trench warfare. However, it is still unclear if he has any understanding of strategic macroprocesses.

Oleksandr Volkov, general assistant. A successful businessman, competent in all strategies of domestic business activities. He reminds me somehow, both on his weak and strong side, of Kuchma's former adviser Ihor Markulov.

There are a number of other outstanding personalities in the president's entourage. Time and their deeds will show what place they will take in the highest hierarchy.

What prognosis should one make with regard to the activity of the president and his entourage in the next three to four months? This fall will be a time of severe trials for L. Kuchma. Making no headway in economic reforms will cause an upsurge of social activity in our society. Attempts to keep pace with everything and undertake everything will produce a time constraint and increase tension in relations with other branches of power. Relations with the Supreme Council will be of especially difficult nature. [passage omitted]

Anti-Narcotics Operations Underway

AU3008130894 Kiev NARODNA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 32-33 (163-164) p 8

[Hryhoriy Tychyna report: "Struggle Against Crime: Comprehensive Operations by the Ministry of Internal Affairs"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

"Weapons"

The quantity of crimes involving firearms has recently increased. In order to remove them from illegal possession, a large-scale operation under the code-name "Weapons" is periodically conducted.

In the course of the operation, 484 organized criminal groups were uncovered and neutralized, and 117 units of firearms were confiscated from the criminals.

Brazen actions by the criminal world are also directed against government officials. On 19 June 1994, in the Crimean town of Saky, automatic weapons fire disturbed the morning tranquility. It was aimed at the automobile with officers of the State Guard Service of the Saky Rayon Administration of Internal Affairs. Officers of the Criminal Identification Division quickly found the apartment from where the shooting had come, detained the criminals—four local residents (born in 1974-77, unemployed), and confiscated from them a submachine-gun, a rifle, 1,000 cartridges, and 2 tonnes of copper.

"Poppy," and "Transit"

Over the last five years, the number of persons listed as consumers of narcotic substances has increased by a factor of 1.5 and has reached 44,200.

In order to prevent crimes involving drug trafficking and to reveal and neutralize drug dealers, operations "Poppy," "Doping," "Transit," and others are being conducted.

In the course of the first stage of the "Poppy-94" operation, 1,065 drug traffickers were detained. Out of this number, every fourth had been within a group and every third had arrived from CIS countries, mainly Russia, Moldova, and Transcaucasus, to obtain narcotics.

Kiev Rumored To Cut Off of N. Crimean Channel

MK3008101994 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 1

[Report from Sevastopol by Oleg Frolov under the "Drought" rubric: "Crimea Might Lose Its Sole Source of Water"]

[Text] Your SEGODNYA correspondent has learned from sources at the Sevastopol city council about a document, which has been presented to Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, giving reasons for the need to urgently switch off the North-Crimean Channel, the pumping equipment of which has worn out and needs urgent repair, the message says.

If the channel is actually cut off, the city council deputies think, Crimea and Sevastopol will be completely without water. At a time of continuing drought, the North-Crimean Channel continues to serve as the sole source of water not only for the peninsula's agriculture and industry, but also for everyday needs of the Crimean population. One can still walk across the bottom of the dried up Crimean reservoirs because there is no water left there.

Crimean President's Popularity Declines

LD3008165194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1150 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Simferopol—The department of sociology at the Crimean center for humanitarian research made public on 30 August the results of an opinion poll among the peninsula's population after President Yuriy Meshkov's 200 days in office.

For the first time in the 200 days of his presidency, the number of the Crimean president's supporters fell below 30 percent, while the number of those disappointed in Yuriy Meshkov's course in the past 40 days rose by 7 percent. In the very same period, the number of "those who have never trusted" the republic's president doubled.

Fourteen percent of the respondents absolutely approve of Yuriy Meshkov's policies (15 percent after 50 days of his leadership); 14 percent (formerly 18 percent) support him; 35 percent (formerly 50 percent) are waiting to see what his actions will be; 16 percent (as little as 5 percent after 50 days of his presidency) are disappointed in him; and 31 percent (formerly 12 percent) have never actually believed in Yuriy Meshkov's policies.

Experts attribute Yuriy Meshkov's lower popularity to the continuing fall in the Crimean population's living standards, to the fact that he did not keep his pre-election promises, and to the worsening of the crime situation in the peninsula. Against that background, people are surprised at the president's and his family's constant voyages abroad and his travelling to and from work in a motorcade of five cars accompanied by his bodyguards and the militia. Vyacheslav Valla, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council's economy standing committee, has told journalists that travelling to work alone costs 10 million karbovantsi a time.

Belarus

'No Clear-Cut Position' on Partnership for Peace

LD3008162294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Belarus has no clear-cut position on the Nato-sponsored Partnership for Peace plan, Belarusian Defense Chief Anatoliy Kostenko said in Minsk late on Monday. He described the plan as interesting, but made it clear the republic's attitude to it would largely depend on the view of the country's president and legislators.

Kostenko said the future of two Russian military installations - a radar station at Gantsevich and a command center at Vileika for Russian submarines operating in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean was the subject of talks between Moscow and Minsk. He spoke of Russia being keen to see the two facilities stayed put in Belarus.

The minister said the Belarusian Army would be reduced to 92,000 troops by the end of this year with land, airforce and air defense forces numbering 45,000, 35,000 and 12,000 men respectively.

Kostenko said the national army was being built on a Western-style pattern of mobile corps and brigades.

Leaders' Briefing Airs Current Issues

LD3008191594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] At a Minsk news conference on Monday evening Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir said that the new structure of the presidential administration and government has been approved by a presidential decree. According to Chyhir, Alyaksandr Lukashenka stood by his election promise of reducing the size of the administration by 30%. Under the decree the cabinet will have a staff of 200 and the presidential administration - 100 persons.

Reporting the results of his first foreign visit as the head of government to the press (last Saturday Chyhir attended festivities in Bratislava on the 50th anniversary of the Slovak national uprising), he spoke of the understanding with the Slovak leadership on the delivery to Belarus of 100,000 tons of durum wheat. The prime minister hopes to get the grain in exchange for Belarusian manufactured goods. He also said the Slovak President Michal Kovac accepted Lukashenko's invitation to visit Minsk. Chyhir made it understood that the visit might take place in the nearest future.

Interfax Note: According to diplomatic sources, during the visit Kovac is expected to sign agreements on the protection of investments and the prevention of double taxation. The two countries might also sign a friendship and cooperation treaty.

Another participant in the conference, Defence Minister Colonel-General Anatoliy Kostenko said the key stage of the army reform will soon end. After the reduction of troops launched in 1992 the Belarusian armed forces will consist of 92,000 men. According to the minister, 45,000 will be in the land force, 35,000 in the air force and 12,000 in air defence. The Belarusian Army has switched to the brigade and corps pattern, which means that all big formations stationed in the country have been transformed into small mobile units.

The minister said that at the moment Belarus does not have a distinct policy with regard to the NATO Partnership for Peace program. Kostenko called the initiative generally interesting but made it clear that the official attitude of the country will largely depend on the opinions of the president and parliament.

The defence minister announced that the status of the Russian strategic facilities in Belarus—the Gantsevichi radar station and facilities in Vileika controlling the Russian nuclear submarines in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean - is a subject of talks between the leaders of the two countries. Kostenko stressed that Russia is extremely interested in keeping its military bases in Belarus.

He said that the defence ministry is forced to reduce the number of officers trained in Russia and accounted the change to the growth of the fees for training (at the Academy of the General Staff in Moscow the fee is $900 a month).

The Chairman of the State Security Committee, Vladimir Yegorov told the new conference that the scale of industrial spying by foreign agents in Belarus is small so far. Still his committee guards the economic interests of the country and controls the situation.

Yegorov denied rumors that the provisional rules of the security committee reportedly signed by the president a few days ago sanction political harassment. "We do not simply tap telephone conversations, but we do that on legal grounds with the authorization of judicial bodies," Yegorov said. He announced that two new divisions have been set up at the committee: for combatting corruption and organized crime. "State Security should deal with the ailments of the country," Yegorov is convinced.

KGB Chief Outlines Current Tasks

LD3008163094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Chairman of Belarusian KGB, Vladimir Yegorov denied speculation that President Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed recently a temporary directive sanctioning political surveillance as one of the committee's duties. We are not only bugging telephones, but we are doing so with the permission of the prosecutor, Yegorov told a news conference in Minsk.

He said structural reform in the KGB led to two new departments being created: One for combatting corruption and the other for combatting organized crime. The KGB must deal with the problems which cause the country's "illness", he said.

Yegorov believes that the scope of industrial espionage carried out by foreign special services in Belarus is not that large. Nevertheless, the KGB, he said, serves the economic interests of the republic and is tracking the situation.

Edict Dismisses Border Troops Chief

WS3108083994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has issued an edict dismissing Yawhen Bacharow from his post as chief of the Main Department of Border Troops within the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers, and placing him at the disposal of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Lukashenka Reassigns Deputy Interior Minister

WS3108084194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Department for Sociopolitical Information within the presidential office has reported that the president has issued an edict nominating Pyotr Krechka as chairman of the Belarusian Customs Committee. Pyotr Krechka was deputy interior minister before the edict was issued.

Unions Urge Increased Control Over Privatization

WS3108084794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The Belarusian Trade Union Federation has addressed the Belarusian president to instruct the Cabinet of Ministers to further elaborate on the privatization and destatization of state property. It is proposed to increase public control over privatization at all stages to more fully consider the interests of enterprise workers.

Moldova

Preview of Madeleine Albright Visit

LD3008154094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1441 GMT 30 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, August 30 TASS—Madeleine Albright, the United States permanent ambassador to the United Nations, now touring European countries and former Soviet republics, arrives on a one-day visit in Moldavia [Moldova] on Wednesday. In Chisinau, Madeleine Albright will meet Moldavian President Mircea Snegur and Foreign Minister Mikhail Popov, ITAR-TASS learned from the Moldavian Foreign Ministry. Members of the delegation are also to meet Moldavian Defence Minister Pavel Kriange.

A broad range of problems of bilateral relations and regional stability will be discussed. Madeleine Albright wants to know what is the Moldavian leaders' opinion of negotiations to settle the Dniester conflict and about the arrangements on the status of the 14th Russian Army and the timeframe for its withdrawal.

From Moldavia the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations will head for Transcaucasian republics where she will exchange opinions on possibilities of international mediation in peacekeeping operations to settle conflicts in the region. The results of the trip will be discussed during the negotiations with leaders of the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

Details of Snegur's Independence Address

LD3008192294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 167 (657) by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] At the request of subscribers we relate the details of the address of President Mircea Snegur to the nation on the 3rd anniversary of Moldova's independence.

Snegur called the adoption of the declaration of independence a historic event for the whole nation.

Independence proclaimed on August 27, 1991 only paved the way to the legal process of forming a practically new state. The further developments demonstrated that to make independence a reality is a difficult task that requires much time. Snegur named as an important achievement of the past three years considerable advancement to democracy. The fact has been recognized by the public in Moldova as well as by international political and economic organizations. The first free parliamentary elections on February 27, 1994 can serve as convincing proof of that. As a result the country elected a professional parliament that has proved that it can function much more productively and efficiently than the previous one.

Snegur described as another important political act the public vote taken on March 6, 1994 during which the nation once again confirmed its determination to live in an independent unitarian and indivisible state capable of pursuing a policy of neutrality, cooperating with other countries, guaranteeing equal rights to all its citizens, including ethnic minorities. Snegur said the poll greatly promoted political and social stabilization of the life of non-Moldovans.

The president singled out the large-scale participation of the Gagauz (a Turkic minority group living in South

Moldova) in these political developments. The parliament approved in the first reading a draft law on the special legal status of the Gagauz. Snegur added that a law on the legal status of the east of the country (predominantly populated by Ukrainians and Russians) is now in the making.

The head of state regretted that the leadership of Transdniesria [Dniester] continue to aggravate the situation not only by their unconstructive approach to the efforts of Kishinev [Chisinau], but even by open provocations, such as the recent introduction of a local currency—coupons.

The president drew attention to the fact that lately certain circles have again been trying to return to the question of using and studying the official language. In his opinion this is prompted either by a poor knowledge of the situation or political ambitions. Snegur stressed that the country has created additional possibilities for studies to those who do not know Moldovan. There is enough time for people in the services and officials to learn the official language to the extent necessary for performing their duties. The postponement of language tests, the president said, should by no means be regarded as the renunciation of the official language or the 1989 law. At the same time Snegur stressed that the leadership of the country will continue supporting the right of minorities to develop their languages. At the moment there are over 20 ethnic societies in the country, education in languages other than Moldovan continues. Non-Moldovans read newspapers and listen to broadcasts in their native languages.

Still all these achievements do not mean that the country should stop there. In the future everything possible should be done for all residents of Moldova to keep their languages and cultures, to help them feel among equals in their homeland.

Speaking of economic problems, the president stressed that recently parliament approved the program of the government for four years. The cabinet has mapped out its most pressing steps and started taking them. The program confirms loyalty to socio-economic reforms. The time of romantic, populistic calls and declarations of the transition to a free market economy is over. Now the economic policy is determined by those who directly work at companies and farms.

After working for three weeks at economic bodies, experts from the IMF and World Bank spoke favorably of the government program in their memorandum, Snegur announced. As a result after the talks between the government and the World Bank in September the country should benefit from a $60 Mn credit offered for 20 years with a five year postponement in payments. Other international organizations, as well as several governments, are offering technical and financial aid to Moldova.

The president named as the key objective of the government program social and political stability in the country in 1995 and the restoration of production and living standards in 1996 and 1997.

In Snegur's opinion the success of social and economic reforms launched in Moldova three years ago depends on external as well as domestic factors. He singled out relations with the CIS and Romania as foreign policy priorities. Membership in the Commonwealth was prompted by Moldova's economic interests: The restoration of cooperation with former Soviet republics, the revival of traditional markets. Snegur stressed that Moldova belongs only to the economic space of the CIS. For this reason it signed agreements on the formation of the economic union and concrete spheres of cooperation.

Kazakhstan

Turkish Minister Attends Oil-Well Commissioning

LD30081354 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1113 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Turkey will step up investment in Kazakhstan's oil and gas-industry projects, Turkish Minister for Energy Veysal Atasoy told Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko in Almaty on Tuesday.

Atasoy arrived in Kazakhstan to attend the ceremony for the opening of the oil well in the Bekbulat oil field in the Mangistau Region, where geological prospecting and oil extraction is run by the Kazakhturmunai Ltd Kazakh-Turkish enterprise.

Its director general Baktykozhan Izmukhambetov told Interfax on Monday that the first well has a daily capacity of more than 300 tons of oil. The total oil resources have not been evaluated yet. In experts' estimate, this oil field is worth developing due to a lack of hydrogen sulfide in the oil layers.

Izmukhambetov also announced that since 1993 Turkey had invested more than $90 million in Kazakhstan's geological prospecting projects. He said that more than 70 percent of oil and gas prospecting operations in Kazakhstan was financed by Kazakhturmunai Ltd.

Discusses Oil Transportation

TA3008191494 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Video report by Ali Dogan in Almaty]

[Text] Energy and Natural Resources Minister Veysel Atasoy has met with Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko. The prime minister said that due to Turkey's experience, the tender of the power station and gas tribunes to be built in Aktepe has been given to a joint Turkish-German firm.

Atasoy promised the prime minister that the Eximbank credits to Kazakhstan will grow.

At his meeting with Atasoy, Kazakh Oil Minister Bolat Yelimov said that the drilling for and marketing of Kazakh oil is important politically, not economically.

During his contacts and news conference here, Atasoy said that the conditions that will be created after oil production in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan increases will make it easier to determine the route of the oil. He pointed out that the concerned countries have been informed that Turkey does not consider it suitable to have the oil carried to the Black Sea through pipelines to be transported through the Turkish straits by tankers due to the straits' capacity and safety considerations. He stressed that extending into Kazakhstan the Ceyhan-Baku oil pipeline proposed for Azerbaijani oil would be the most economic way, and that he explained this to the Kazakh prime minister and ministers with whom he met.

Kazakh Geology Minister Ferikbey Dalkiyev said that they are considering the transportation of Kazakhstan oil through the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline to the Mediterranean as one of the alternatives. However, he said, this concerns not only Kazakhstan but a few other countries as well.

Discusses Problems With Officials

TA3008171094 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2130 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Report by Ali Dogan in Almaty]

[Text] Veysel Atasoy, minister of energy and natural resources who went to Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan, yesterday, has started to hold meetings.

Today, he met with Kazakh Geology Minister Ferikbey Dalkiyev, Foreign Affairs Minister Kanat Saudabayev, and Economy Deputy Minister Kratso Nelski [as received]. Dalkiyev said that the oil exploration activities of the company set up by the Turkish Petroleum Corporation in Kazakhstan constitute the concrete signs of the relations between the two countries.

Saudabayev asked Atasoy to ensure that $150 million of the Eximbank credits promised by Turkey are released urgently. The Kazakh foreign minister stressed that the modernization of their iron and steel plants and the construction of textile and cable factories depend on this loan.

Atasoy assured him that the problem of the release of this loan will be resolved as soon possible. He added that Turkey will extend additional loans to Kazakhstan.

Atasoy asked the deputy economy minister to solve the problem of the moneys owed to Turkish pharmaceutical export firms.

Atasoy will continue to hold talks in Kazakhstan tomorrow.

Kyrgyzstan

Turkish Parliamentary Speaker Arrives in Bishkek

LD3008181894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1729 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek August 30 TASS—Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Husamettin Cindoruk [name as received] arrived on Tuesday in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek to take part in the celebration of the independence day. In a brief interview at the Bishkek airport he highly assessed the reforms in Kyrgyzia [Kyrgyzstan] and prospects for the development of relations between the two states.

On the same day, Cindoruk was received by the republican leadership. On Wednesday, the speaker intends to participate in the celebration of the third anniversary of Kyrgyzia's independence.

Parliamentary Delegation Begins Contacts

TA3108080294 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2130 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Ahmet Cavusoglu video report from Bishkek]

[Text] The Turkish parliamentary delegation headed by Husamettin Cindoruk, speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, began its official contacts in Bishkek in the afternoon. The delegation first called on Supreme Soviet Chairman Medetkan Sherimkulov. In a statement during the meeting, Cindoruk asserted that the relations between Turkey and Kyrgyzstan are becoming stronger every day. Sherimkulov, in turn, expressed pleasure over the Turkish parliamentary delegation's participation in the independence celebrations.

Cindoruk and his delegation was then received by President Askar Akayev. During the meeting, Akayev declared that his country greatly benefited from Turkey's experience in the transition to a democratic regime and adopted a new constitution. In his statement, Cindoruk said that great importance is attached to the democratic reforms implemented in Kyrgyzstan and the developments in the transition to a free market economy. Cindoruk also relayed an invitation to visit Turkey from President Suleyman Demirel to Akayev.

The parliamentary delegation visited Prime Minister Apas Dzhumagulovich Dzhumagulov as well. Cindoruk also addressed a group of Kyrgyz parliamentarians. In his speech, Cindoruk remarked that the existing parliament fulfilled a big task in the establishment of a democratic state, concluded the first phase, and drafted a new constitution. The parliament to be established in the future will derive its strength from this constitution, Cindoruk added.

Meanwhile, the National State University of Kyrgyzstan awarded an honorary doctorate to Cindoruk for his contributions to democracy. Cindoruk and his delegation also attended a dinner hosted in their honor by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

Economic Ills Cloud Independence Day Celebrations

LD3008130894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0717 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 30 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] is celebrating the third anniversary of its independence. Cities are festooned with national flags. Festive music is playing on the streets and squares. A military parade will be held in Bishkek tomorrow, along with open-air theater and public promenading.

However, local observers say this year's holiday is tinged with considerable bitterness. The last three years have not been easy for the republic. Industry has come to a virtual standstill, miners are on prestrike alert, some of the collective and state farms have been broken up as a result of the land reform, but peasants still have not received any extra land. Although statistics say the country has over 17,000 private farms, many of these farms have difficulty feeding even themselves.

There has been much trumpeting about the stability of the som, and monthly inflation has indeed been reduced to 2-3 percent. But this has only been achieved through dollar loans from international financial organizations. The som has no backing in the form of locally produced industrial goods. The standard of living of Kyrgyzstan's citizens is extremely low. Statistics purport to show that last month real wages in the republic rose by 13 percent compared with other CIS countries. But in reality pensions and wages are not paid for months on end.

On the eve of Independence Day, the prime minister Apas Dzhumagulov warned the heads of appropriate bodies to settle the debt owed to pensioners, students, and invalids by 1 September or face extremely harsh measures.

Akayev at Opening of New Gold Mine

LD3008211894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1905 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Kyrgyzstan has launched the Soltonsary gold mining enterprise, whose output will be second only to the Makmaly enterprise.

Speaking at the opening ceremony President Askar Akayev said that gold mining must become a high priority in the country.

Once the mines start to work at full capacity, he said, Kyrgyzstan will become the CIS's third and the world's 12th to 15th gold producer.

Tajikistan

Armed Provocations Continue on Afghan Border

LD3108080994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0701 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Dushanbe August 31 TASS—A group of militants of the opposition was prevented from breaking through to the Tajik territory on Tuesday night in the area of the Pyandezh border guard post.

The press center of the Command of Russian Border Guard Troops in Tajikistan reported that a border guard post located on the strategic height of Navranga and controlled by the 12th Moscow Border Guard Unit came under mortar fire and had been shelled throughout Tuesday.

Border guards fired in retaliation, suppressing fire spots of the enemy. No casualties among Russian servicemen have been reported.

Arab Mercenary Involvement in War Unconfirmed

MM3108083194 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 1

[Article by Valeriy Ivanov under the general heading "'Wild Geese' Have Flown to Tajikistan. Or Were They 'Ducks'? The West Finds Uranium in Time, While Russia Finds Arabs"]

[Text] Many mass media have carried reports that Arab mercenaries are fighting on the side of the Tajik opposition. To what extent do these reports tally with reality?

The Press Center of the Tajik Ministry of Defense claims that a subunit carrying out combat operations to eliminate armed opposition formations in the east of Tavildarinskiy Rayon discovered the bodies of two dead Arabs who had presumably been instructors of gunmen. The mercenaries' Arab origins are borne out by the personal documents found on the dead men.

These arguments of the Tajik Defense Ministry Press Center are clearly unconvincing. According to an unwritten law, mercenaries do not carry documents with them into battle. At the same time, according to information from our source, there really are mercenaries from Saudi Arabia on the border. But it is not known whether they take a direct part in combat operations.

We received this reply to our question at the Saudi Embassy: "We have heard about this, but we do not possess information enabling us to reply in the affirmative or the negative."

At the same time Moscow has warned that the involvement of foreign mercenaries in the inter-Tajik conflict lends still greater acuteness to the situation prevailing in the region and could lead to its further exacerbation. Speaking at a briefing in Moscow, Grigoriy Karasin, spokesman for the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pointed out that people in the Russian capital are concerned about the information from the Tajik military concerning the participation of mercenaries from a number of Arab countries in combat operations on the opposition side. He urged the opposition leaders to refrain from involving foreign citizens in military operations as mercenaries.

The Press Bureau of the Russian Federal Border Guard Troops has also confirmed the information about the presence of Arab mercenaries and their participation in combat operations on the side of the Tajik opposition. We were unable to find at the permanent mission of Tajikistan anyone who was au fait with the question of interest to us.

Rumors about mercenaries are coming in regularly from all sources of information. For example, television has carried a report that mercenaries from Yemen and Estonia are fighting on the side of the Tajik opposition. At our request the press attache at the Estonian Embassy contacted her military attache, from whom we received this reply: "These people are in no way connected with the military in the Republic of Estonia. This is most likely untrue. Moreover, we very much doubt that they are citizens of Estonia."

According to recent data, "supposedly 10 Arab mercenaries" were captured when one of the opposition detachments was disarmed. The mercenaries themselves have not yet been shown. Not until the first (big?) star?

Russian Border Service Appeals for 'Compromise'

MM3108084994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Anatoliy Stasovskiy: "Tajikistan: Border Guards Still Under Fire. Are Islamicists Heeding Latest Appeal To Initiate Peace Dialogue?"]

[Text] Mines and shells could again be heard exploding in the Moscow and Pyandzh border guard detachments' sectors on the Tajik-Afghan border on the night of 30 August. The mojahedin are particularly annoyed about the intransigent "Turg" border post on a dominating stretch of high ground. It is most usually the target for attacks from Afghan territory. And, although retaliatory fire from the Russian border guards is never long in coming, the Russian officer Lieutenant Colonel Akhtem Nasibullin was fatally wounded 30 August.

Yet the border guards, who are suffering irreparable losses, are continuing to hope that peace will be established in Tajikistan, and are trying to exploit the slightest opportunity to initiate a dialogue and find a compromise. The Russian Federation Federal Border Service issued a statement 30 August. It said, in particular:

"The events of recent days on the Tajik-Afghan border cannot fail to prompt feelings of bitterness and profound regret in connection with the continuing escalation of hostilities by the hard-line armed opposition against Russian and Tajik border guards.

"In this connection the Russian Federation Federal Border Service considers it necessary to state that Russian Border Guard Troops are guarding the Tajik-Afghan border not on some whim of their own, but as a result of the will of the peoples of the Commonwealth states....

"Collective Peacekeeping Forces have been set up to stabilize the border situation. The Tajik-Afghan border is being guarded by servicemen from 30 ethnic groups.

More than 50 percent of the men in the Russian Border Guard Troops (in Tajikistan—author's note) are Tajiks.

"...Over the past year alone more than 40,000 civilians have returned home (from Afghanistan—author's note) through the 'Nizhniy Pyandzh' crossing point. If the Tajik Government makes the appropriate decisions to open additional crossing points, we are ready to do everything to ease the already heavy burden carried by those who have left the motherland.

"The Russian Federation Federal Border Service appeals to the Tajik leadership, opposition leaders, and the republic's people to end all hostilities on the border, pave the way to compromise, and initiate a peace dialogue."

Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan Ready To Defend Border

LD3008185094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The participants in the Russian-Uzbek-Tajik meeting on August 25-26 during the visit of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Tashkent said they were seriously concerned over the continuing aggressive actions of the Tajik opposition.

The Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told Interfax today that Kozyrev, Uzbek President Islam Karimov and chairman of the Tajik parliament Emomali Rakhmonov had said at the meeting that they were ready to take all necessary measures to defend the Tajik-Afghan border which he called the common border of the CIS countries.

Karasin said the parties had discussed the opposition policy of using force to achieve its political goals and had stressed that they were prepared to respond to such actions in an adequate fashion.

At the same time, Karasin stressed that the participants in the meeting consider it necessary to continue the inter-Tajik talks. Rakhmonov said that the Tajik leadership was ready to try to reach an agreement with the opposition on its participation in the political process, including the formation of the legitimate power bodies if the opposition rejects violence, Karasin added.

Karasin also said that Rakhmonov had informed the meeting on the domestic political reforms started in the country and had stressed that Dushanbe is ready to admit observers from the UN, the CSCE and the CIS to the referendum on the constitution and the presidential elections.

Presidential Election Postponed To Year's End

MK3008111494 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 4

[Aleksandr Botov report: "Moscow Hopes to Reconcile the Irreconcilable"]

[Text] Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet Chairman Emomali Rakhmonov and Prime Minister Abdudzhalil Samadov yesterday announced presidential and parliamentary elections in the republic will be moved from the end of September to the end of the year. The delay is designed to draw the opposition into a peaceful political dialogue, although so far the methods used by the leaders of the "intransigents," entrenched in Afghanistan, to deal with the authorities remain the same.

According to latest reports from the Russian Federal Border Guard Service Press Bureau, Tajik Mujahidin have not abandoned the plan to seize strategic high ground in the area of the 12th Post of the Moscow Border Guard Unit. Overnight from Sunday to Monday Russian border guards cut short another attempt by a small group of armed Tajik opposition forces to cross the Pyandzh river. None of the Russian frontier guards has been injured as a result of operations undertaken in the past three days. Meanwhile Colonel Vladimir Novikov, acting commander of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan, believes that a large scale invasion by armed Tajik opposition has begun from the territory of Afghanistan. However Moscow's position on the settlement of the Tajik conflict remains unchanged. In spite of intensified armed action on the border, Russian diplomats still insist on the participation of all political forces (including those which are "irreconcilable") in the upcoming elections. With the view to achieving civil accord, Tajikistan's authorities expressed their readiness to amnesty opposition leaders. If no accord is reached, the Russian-Tajik border guard contingent, Novikov assures, will have enough strength and means to curb outside aggression.

More on Reasons for Postponing Elections

LD3108100894 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Head of state Emomali Rakhmonov chaired a session of the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Presidium yesterday. The session was attended by the deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers; the chairmen of the Executive Committees of Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, Khatlon and Leninabad oblasts, the City of Dushanbe, and the cities and rayons subordinate to the center; the heads of ministries and departments, and officials of the staff of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The session adopted decisions on marking the republic's Aviation Day and on granting the Yavon settlement the status of town subordinate to rayon.

Abdulmajid Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, informed the session of the need to postpone the nationwide referendum on the constitution and the elections for president of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In view of the cotton harvest campaign and the fall field work during the month of September and also taking into account the need for refugees to return, and in order to ensure their participation in political events, it is proposed that the nationwide referendum and the election of the president should be postponed. [passage omitted]

Emomali Rakhmonov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet, spoke in detail on the republic's sociopolitical and economic situation. He said that postponing the election would enable all-round preparations for this important political event to be made. Councils and political parties will be able to nominate their candidates for the post of president. We want all Tajik refugees to take advantage of the forthcoming amnesty, to return to their permanent places of residence, and to take part in the adoption of the constitution and the election of the president of the republic.

Emomali Rakhmonov then spoke on the celebration of Independence Day, the celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of Ferdowsi's "Shahnama", and preparations for the winter.

ITAR-TASS on UN, CSCE Influencing Postponement

LD3008144194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1330 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 30 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—An extraordinary session of the Tajik parliament, to be held 7 September, is to discuss postponing the Tajik presidential elections until some time around November. This decision was made today, after heated debate, by an unscheduled session of the Tajik Supreme Soviet Presidium. The official reasons for the postponement are the fact that some refugees have still not returned home from abroad, the fall field work is due to start, and there is continuing sociopolitical instability in certain regions of the republic.

The presidium meeting was held behind closed doors but ITAR-TASS learned that the Tajik authorities' decision to postpone the election was influenced by the views of the UN Security Council, the CSCE, and other international organizations which, as we know, doubt whether truly democratic elections can be held in the acute sociopolitical situation prevailing in Tajikistan. Another factor was the short time available for the election campaign and the fact that hundreds of thousands of Tajik refugees and representatives of the political opposition would not have been able to take part in them.

Ambassador to Russia Joins Presidential Race

LD3108110894 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] An hour ago the Central Electoral Commission for elections of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan [words indistinct] registered the candidacy of Abdumalik Abdullojonov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Russian Federation. This is a second candidate for the post of the president of the republic after Emomali Rakhmonov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

Yesterday Emomali Rakhmonov pointed out at the extraordinary session of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan that the political parties and soviets will be able to nominate their candidates for the post of the president before the referendum on adoption of the constitution and election of the president of the republic. [passage indistinct]

Report on Council of Ministers Presidium Session

LD3008203094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Presidium of Tajikistan's Council of Ministers met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Abdudzhalil Samadov.

The meeting discussed draft taxation laws on financial operations of securities and the Supreme Soviet's decree on [words indistinct]. The government approved an agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Republic of Korea on encouraging and mutual defending of capital investment and on establishing automobile plants in [word indistinct].

Similarly, a number of other issues related to the republic's economic and social development were discussed at the meeting.

Uzbekistan

Karimov, UN Official Discuss Cooperation

LD3008164694 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0145 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov received Anton Kriyuderev, department director of the UN Commission for the Development of Europe and the CIS countries yesterday. During the talks, the developing, multifaceted cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Nations was discussed comprehensively. Our country's leader welcomed the initiative of the United Nations for the training of local experts, promoting know-how and the private sector, implementation of privatization on the basis of world demands, and provision of technical assistance for enhancing the protection of the environment.

Kriyuderev expressed his gratitude to Karimov for his sincere reception and expressed the hope that cooperation would advance in a short time. Also present at the reception were Deputy Prime Minister Otkir Sultanov, Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Komilev, and Khalid Malik, permanent UN representative to Uzbekistan.

Premier on Achievements of Independence

MM3008124794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 94 First Edition p 6

[Article by Abdulkhashim Mutalov, prime minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan: "We Did Not Copy—We Simply Gave It Some Thought"]

[Text] Uzbekistan, one of the largest republics in the Central Asian region, is marking the third anniversary of its independence. What have those years been like for the young sovereign state's millions of citizens and what did they contain?

To answer those questions briefly, it has been a period of the formation of the state system when the legal and legislative foundations were laid and began to operate and when Uzbekistan embarked on the path of radical reform. The ultimate aim of this program is to build a secular democratic state in which the economy is oriented toward market relations.

From the very first day of independence it was necessary to resolve a difficult question: How to build up the economic potential gradually without social upheavals?

Of course, we could have taken the tried and tested path here—that of investing resources in expanding extractive industry. Incidentally, that is what some of our neighbors did and it yielded results. But the pursuit of instant success, as a rule, means great losses in the future. What would we bequeath our heirs then?...

It was necessary to elaborate our own concept of economic reform. It was based on the five principles put forward by Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan. They are based on the premise that economic reforms must never follow in the "slipstream" of politics or be subordinated to some ideology or other. The economy must take priority over politics.

The main agent of reform must be the state, which sets the priorities and elaborates and consistently implements the policy of transformations. The democratically adopted constitution and laws must be respected and unswervingly observed by everyone without exception. A strong social policy must be implemented in the light of the population's demographic structure. Lastly, the transition to a market economy must be well thought out and implemented in stages in the light of the requirements of objective economic laws and without the "revolutionary leaps forward" of the past—in other words, by an evolutionary path.

Life has confirmed that the republic has chosen the right path. Uzbekistan was and remains the most stable region among the Commonwealth countries. Interethnic accord is becoming stronger in our country and peace and calm are being preserved. We did not blindly copy an economic model of the transition to market relations. Although we did carefully study the experience of reform in Turkey, China, South Korea, Malaysia, and a number of European countries. In other words, we devised our own strategic reform program, which we are implementing in stages.

Uzbekistan and its leadership are often criticized for the "authoritarian style of rule" allegedly existing in our country. The following arguments are cited: There is no free enterprise in the republic, the state rigidly controls everything, the system of centralized distribution still exists here, and so forth. So the package of presidential edicts and decrees from the republic's cabinet of ministers on the development of and support for enterprise, foreign investments, tax concessions, and customs regulations was a bolt from the blue for many of our opponents.

[Text] Some were quick to state that Uzbekistan had no alternative. But that is merely a superficial approach. Essentially we were embarking on stage two of the reforms. We had previously created the conditions necessary for the gradual transition to the market.

The private farming movement has been developed on a wide scale in our country. By presidential edict over 200,000 hectares of irrigated plowland were allocated to those who are diligent and enterprising. Private subsidiary plots now account for three-quarters of the republic's total milk output, 68 percent of meat, 63 percent of vegetables, 58 percent of fresh fruit, and 43 percent of potatoes.

There are dozens of large and medium joint ventures working actively in our country now, and the leading banks have opened offices. Foreign investors are attracted to Uzbekistan by its sociopolitical stability. In addition there are the president's edicts whereby people who invest capital in production are exempted from tax for several years.

The process of privatization and destatization is gaining momentum. Whereas in the first stage it affected housing and trade and service facilities, now it has penetrated other sectors too. Furthermore, under Republic of Uzbekistan legislation citizens of CIS countries and foreigners can own shares in major industrial enterprises which have been reorganized into open-type joint-stock companies.

In short, much has been done in the past three years. But I certainly do not think that all the problems have been resolved and that Uzbekistan is on the up and up. Problems exist and they are quite serious ones. We are bound to be worried that the traditional ties with the republics of the former Union, especially Russia, have been severed. Our cooperation is suffering greatly from the fact that mutual payments are impossible. Paradoxical as it may seem, the number of Uzbek-Russian joint ventures can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

In my view this isolation is contrary to the logic of life.

Recently Uzbekistan switched to its own national currency—the sum. Intensive conversion work is in progress. But this does not mean that we want to distance ourselves from the CIS countries and from Russia and withdraw into our "own compartment." I am deeply convinced that the time has come for work at a civilized level, without diktat and orders on anyone's part. The main criterion of cooperation must be mutually beneficial partnership, which has a centuries-old history in our country.

Armenia

Surprise Azerbaijani Attack Repulsed 29 Aug

NC3008142794 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani Army again infringed upon Armenia's eastern border yesterday evening. Taking advantage of foggy weather, an enemy subunit tried to invade Krasnoselskiy Rayon and move toward (Verin)-Chambarak at 1800 [1400 GMT]. However, our border guards immediately halted the enemy's surprise attack and repulsed it after inflicting heavy losses. There were no casualties on our side. In reporting this incident, the Defense Ministry press service added that no incidents have taken place on the borders since last night.

No cease-fire violations were registered in Karabakh during this period. This was reported by the press service of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Ministry.

Nagorno-Karabakh Says Ready To Uphold Cease-Fire

NC3008124894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1052 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Stepanakert, August 30 (SNARK)—Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh is satisfied with keeping cease-fire by all parties of the conflict in conformity with the agreement, signed on July 27, 1994 by the Military Departments' leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

A statement being distributed by a press center of Karabakh Foreign Affairs Ministry a day before says that a commander of Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army again confirms his orders given to all subdivisions to abstain from any kind of action which may break an agreement on cease-fire.

The statement reminds that orders include provisions for punishment of those braking a regime of cease-fire. NKR Foreign Affairs Ministry hopes that the regime of cease-fire will be kept until a political agreement on peaceful settlement [item incomplete as received].

Armenian, Karabakh Defense Ministers on Truce

NC3008151094 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry press service issued a statement on 28 August in which it is said: The Armenian Republic expresses its satisfaction at the observance of the cease-fire established by the 27 July 1994 agreement. The republic's Defense Ministry has informed the Foreign Ministry that the defense minister has reaffirmed his orders to all army units under his command to refrain from any action that might endanger the cease-fire. The orders include penalties for those who violate the cease-fire.

The Foreign Ministry also noted that, taking into account the intensive ongoing talks, the Armenian Republic will uphold the observance of the cease-fire in line with the 27 July 1994 agreement until the signing of a political agreement.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Foreign Ministry issued a similar statement. The statement noted the republic's satisfaction that all sides to the conflict are observing the cease-fire envisaged by the agreement signed by the heads of the military departments of the NKR, Azerbaijan, and Armenia on 27 July 1994.

The press service also reported that the commander of the [NKR] Defense Army has reaffirmed the orders given to all units to refrain from any action that might lead to a violation of the cease-fire. The orders include penalties for those who violate the cease-fire.

The NKR Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that the cease-fire will be observed until the signing of a political agreement.

Iran Denies Threat Against Arms Dealers

NC3008200794 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry press service issued a statement today noting that certain news agencies had reported recently that allegedly Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, has declared that any Iranian who dares to send arms or fuel to Armenia or seriously gets involved in such an operation will be condemned to death. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Yerevan has officially refuted [word indistinct] the report. The Armenian Foreign Ministry press service expresses its amazement at the publication of unconfirmed reports and accompanying commentaries in certain papers. [passage indistinct]

Karabakh Official Opposes Armenian Drum as Currency

LD3008140094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1113 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Armenia and Karabakh are uniting their monetary systems and the Armenian drum becomes the exclusive legal tender in Karabakh, the Armenian Central Bank's spokesman Sevak Manukyan reported in an interview with the Financial Information Agency Tuesday.

In line with an agreement signed by the chairmen of the Armenian and Karabakh central banks in Stepanakert a week ago, the Armenian Central Bank is the only institution empowered to issue the drum and fix currency rates for the Karabakh Central Bank. The sides also agreed to raise common bank reserves of gold, currency, and other highly liquid assets.

In Manukyan's words, late last year Karabakh's parliament announced the drum as the sole legal tender, however, its circulation has not been officially regulated.

Asked about political repercussions of the money accord, Manukyan suggested that it is not likely to "affect politics" and recalled that Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan had earlier introduced national currencies of their own while Karabakh had never had an officially recognized monetary unit. In his opinion, "there simply was no other choice." Once the agreement takes effect, money circulation in Karabakh "will be controlled in a civilized way."

Manukyan concluded by saying that the document is purely of a financial nature and will not cause political complications.

Meanwhile, in an interview with the Financial Information Agency, Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy Adviser Vafa Gulu-zade denounced the Armenian-Karabakh monetary integration as "another provocation aimed at thwarting a peace settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan."

He emphasized that since the future status of Karabakh has not been determined, it is still part of Azerbaijan.

War has disrupted normal life in Karabakh today. "Only a fair peace, a fair solution to the conflict can" normalize the situation. The conclusion of the Armenian-Karabakh agreement is a rash accord, doomed to failure, Vafa Gulu-zade declared.

Azerbaijan

Interior Ministry Reports on Clashes in Nakhichevan

NC3008210394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani Interior Ministry press service reports that the domestic and foreign policy implemented by the new administration over the past year has been bearing fruit. Political stability has been attained in our republic and civil conflict has been eliminated. Work is also going on to straighten out the country's economy and to improve the well-being of the population. Most important of all, all means are being used to end the war. Millions of citizens of our republic are defending the policy pursued by the country's leadership to extricate the country from the crisis, and are giving close support to it.

However, our work is being hampered by the efforts of some political forces to disrupt political stability in Azerbaijan and artificially foment civil strife. In particular, the lawless actions committed by certain forces in Nakhichevan only serves this purpose.

Despite frequent announcements by the law enforcement organs that those illegally hiding large amount of arms will be brought to account, illegal armed groups in the region are attempting to create a tense criminal situation. Naturally, the law enforcement organs could not have remained mere spectators to such a situation, which is of serious concern to the people.

The armed group near Arpachay Lake in Sharur Rayon was neutralized by the police organs in the last few days. The dissolution of the group was welcomed by the people.

Six Alazan launchers, two armored vehicles, five automatic weapons, two Makarov pistols, one [word indistinct] rifle, more than 10,000 rounds, 20 shells, three Vaz and one Zil-131 cars, five excavators, and various other military equipment were seized at the site near Arpachay Lake during the latest operations.

The armed group, which was not defended by any strata of the population, was completely rendered harmless. Twelve persons were jailed.

The Azerbaijani Interior Ministry invites all the healthy forces in the region to assume their high patriotic responsibility and political maturity, and to closely support the law enforcement organs in finding the illegally hidden arms and bringing the criminal elements to account.

NKR Satisfied With Cease-Fire Observance

LD3008133394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1155 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Martirosyan]

[Text] Stepanakert, 30 Aug—The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] expresses its satisfaction with the observance by all sides in the conflict of the terms of the cease-fire in accordance with the agreement of 27 July 1994, signed by the heads of the military departments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagoro-Karabakh through the mediation of Russia. This is proclaimed in a statement circulated today by the press service of the NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs circulated today.

The orders issued earlier to all subunits to refrain from any actions which could lead to a violation of the terms of the cease-fire have been reiterated to commanders of the defense army of the NKR. Punitive measures are also envisaged with regard to persons guilty of violating the cease-fire.

The statement stresses that the NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses the hope that the cease-fire will be maintained until the conclusion of a political settlement.

Turkey's Demirel Appeals For Elchibey's Security

NC3008183194 London Kanal-6 Television in Turkish 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] President Demirel has expressed Turkey's uneasiness over operations being conducted against pro-Elchibey forces in Nakhichevan. Demirel asked Azerbaijani President Aliyev to ensure Elchibey's security.

President Demirel indicated that Azerbaijan is responsible for ensuring security of property and lives in Nakhichevan, which is under Turkey's guarantorship.

[Unidentified reporter] According to diplomatic sources, a series of operations in Azerbaijan said to have been launched against drug and arms smugglers in recent days have started to worry [former president Abulfaz] Elchibey, who still lives at his birthplace in Nakhichevan, and his supporters. Faced with the difficulty of conveying their worries to the Turkish Government, the pro-Elchibey forces met with Bulent Ecevit, leader of Democratic Left Party [DSP].

When Ecevit failed to establish contact with Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal, he asked for a meeting with the president. During his reception by Demirel, Ecevit stressed that the Aliyev administration's failures have again turned Elchibey into a hope, and Baku is uneasy about this development. Ecevit indicated that the Aliyev administration is trying to destroy Elchibey under the pretext of operations against smugglers. He said: I fear Elchibey will suffer the fate of [former Georgian president] Gamsakhurdia.

Noting that Nakhichevan, in which the village where Elchibey lives is located, is under Turkey's guarantorship, the president said that the Azerbaijani administration is responsible for the Elchibey's security.

It has been learned that after this meeting, Demirel spoke with Aliyev on the telephone and then briefed Ecevit.

Nakhichevan Parliament Denies Attempt on Elchibey

NC3008205394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] We just made telephone contact with our special correspondent in Nakhichevan Sadykh Gozelov and received additional information.

[Gozelov] An extensive meeting was held today at the Supreme Assembly of the autonomous republic on the sociopolitical situation that has arisen in Nakhichevan. Namik Gasanov, chairman of the Supreme Assembly, provided detailed information to the conferees on the reasons of the confrontation which resulted in bloodshed. The heads of the Interior Ministry, Prosecutor's Office, and others spoke on measures being taken to calm the situation, and put forward (?additional) measures.

At the conclusion of the meeting, an appeal was adopted addressed to the population of the autonomous republic. The appeal says that at the very time when Armenia and pro-Armenian forces have stepped up their economic and political pressure on the Azerbaijani state, the disruption of internal stability, no matter where it comes from, will weaken society's resistance and thus will put the fate of sovereign, independent and united Azerbaijan under question. There could be differences of views on state-building and politics, but to allow movements which endanger the supreme interests of the people and of the state is an enormous crime against the people and cannot be condoned.

Also, the press service of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] Supreme Assembly issued a statement today. The statement says Abulfaz Elchibey's press service in Keleki issued a statement alleging that an assassination attempt has been prepared against Elchibey. The statement claims, without any foundation, that a decision to this effect was adopted during the NAR Supreme Assembly session on 24 August.

In refuting this information aimed at further exacerbating the situation, the press service of the NAR Supreme Assembly declares that no assassination attempt is being prepared against Elchibey and that such a thing cannot even be considered.

As for the meeting at the NAR Supreme Assembly on 24 August, the NAR Supreme Assembly press service reports that the meeting—which was devoted to the tasks emanating from the Azerbaijani President's decree on strengthening the fight against criminal activity and bolstering law and order, and to the progress of free market economy—was fully aired on Nakhichevan television. We leave it to their own (?judgment) if circles close to Elchibey regard the fight against criminal activity as a fight against Elchibey.

Azerbaijani Ambassador Says Aliyev's Position Strong

NC2908182294 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 25 Aug 94 p A2

[Text] Ankara—Azerbaijan's ambassador in Ankara, Mamed Novruz oglu Aliyev, says rumors claiming there will be a coup in his country are false.

President Heydar Aliyev was elected with 98 percent of the Azeri people's vote and his administration has recorded several successes, Novruz ogly said in his press conference on Wednesday. "Mr. Aliyev has visited Turkey, Russia, France, China, Britain and Saudi Arabia, establishing good relations with all of them. Aliyev will visit the United States in September. He has signed NATO's Partnership for Peace agreement. The Azeri Oil company is ready to sign an oil agreement with a Western consortium after overcoming some technical details. Also, Armenia has realized that it is a must to establish good relations with Turkey and Azerbaijan. Now, it is talking about an Azeri-Armenian peace," Novruz ogly concluded.

He pointed out that Aliyev was the most important statesman in Azerbaijan in the past 70 years and said: "Nobody could make a coup in Azerbaijan. Aliyev is backed by the nation." Novruz ogly also said that the IZVESTIYA newspaper, published in Moscow, is under the control of the Armenian lobby. "Some circles are spreading some rumors against Azerbaijan in this newspaper. Even the Turkish press published reports saying there would be a coup in Azerbaijan on August 23. We saw these reports with deep regret. We want support from the Turkish press," he remarked.

He pointed out that Azeri government and public wanted to use the Baku-Ceyhan route to transport Azeri oil. "We consider our oil resources the greatest blessing and weapon we have. We want to share this blessing with Turkey. The last word in this issue belongs to Azeri Parliament."

He also said that there were signals from Armenia hinting that they were wanted to make peace. "This dispute has to be solved under the umbrella of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). There are discussions underway including the participation of Russia and the CSCE. We are optimistic. Somehow, we are going to rescue our territories from the occupation without conceding our independence and territorial integrity."

Novruz ogly denied reports that Russia was going to deploy 1,800 soldiers in Karabakh. "Deploying peace keepers in the region would have to be done through the CSCE. A country can not send more than 30 percent of the total peace keeping force," he said.

Aliyev, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Diplomats' Visit

NC3008193694 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev received the U.S. ambassador to our country Richard Kauzlarich today. Our correspondent Menzere Sadykhova reports:

[Begin recording] [Sadykhova] When receiving the U.S. ambassador to our country, the Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev at first discussed the repair work at their embassy compound. Commenting on the protracted repair work, Richard Kauzlarich said that they are very pleased with the building allocated to them in Baku and they are repairing it with a feeling of great responsibility not to harm the beauty of the building.

Coming to the point, Ambassador Kauzlarich noted that two U.S. politicians will arrive in Baku this week. The Virginia Congressman Walton is expected to arrive on 2 September, and U.S. permanent UN representative Ambassador Albright on 3 September. The Americans want these officials to familiarize themselves with Azerbaijan's problems as much as possible. Mr. Richard Kauzlarich said with diplomatic finesse that besides being the U.S. representative at the UN, Ambassador Albright is also a member of President Clinton's cabinet and the National Security Council. Her lengthy stay in Baku will be a part of her visit to Caucasus, and after her visit she will personally brief President Clinton on her findings. Undoubtedly this information, particularly objective information on Nagorno-Karabakh, will be highly beneficial for Azerbaijan. As such, it is necessary to provide as much information as possible to the two U.S. official representatives, in particular to Ambassador Albright.

[Aliyev] I have always said that the more U.S. statesmen and politicians who visit Azerbaijan, the more true, correct, and objective information will be available to the United States on the situation in Azerbaijan, particularly on the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Therefore, I consider Ambassador Albright's visit here an important event. I have issued the necessary instructions to the presidential apparatus and Foreign Ministry to take the necessary measures in this connection. Certainly I am ready to talk and exchange views on the situation in Azerbaijan with Ambassador Albright.

I consider the congressmen's visit here very positive, and I hope that more of them will come more frequently. You mentioned the congressman from Virgina. We will receive him appropriately here and I am ready to meet and talk with him, too.

I believe that such meetings and consultations will both help the development of ties between United States and Azerbaijan and will create more objective public opinion in America on the situation in Azerbaijan. [end recording]

State Adviser Vafa Gulizade and U.S. Embassy official Robert Finch were present at the meeting.

Government Adviser Assails Armenian Currency Move

LD3008185294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] In an interview with Interfax the foreign policy adviser of the Azeri government Vafa Guluzade has described the Armenian-Karabakh agreement on the unification of monetary systems as another provocation aimed at undermining the peace settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict.

He stressed that the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh has not been defined yet, therefore a part of Azerbaijan is in question. "As a result of the war life in Nagorno-Karabakh is not normal," the official said. The situation can be normalized only by a fair settlement of the conflict. In the opinion of Guluzade the Armenian-Karabakh agreement is a reckless step.

Interfax Note: Several days ago the Armenian Central Bank and the Central Bank of Nagorno-Karabakh signed an agreement on the unification of the monetary systems under which the Armenian bank becomes the only institution having the right to issue the Armenian dram, while the Karabakh bank shall accept the currency rates set by the other bank. The two sides agreed to set up joint reserves of gold, currency and other liquid assets. Armenia believes the document is purely financial and should not cause any political complications.

Meanwhile observers in Baku believe that the event can seriously hinder talks on the draft of a large-scale political agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh. The next round is due in Moscow on Thursday. During the previous round at the beginning of this month the two sides worked out 9 out of 17 paragraphs of the draft. Among other things the agreement provides for a general and complete end to hostilities in the conflict zone, the separation of troops, the deployment of a security force and international observers, the withdrawal of armed formations from occupied territories, the lifting of the blockade on communications, the return of refugees and the organization of the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Georgia

Defense Minister Views Peacekeeping Process in Abkhazia

AU3108080294 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 24 Aug 94 p 1

[Interview with Georgian Defense Minister General Vardiko Nadibaidze by Inga Abgarova; place and date not given: "General Nadibaidze: 'The Process of the Return of the Refugees Should Be Guaranteed by an Additional Peacekeeping Contingent'"]

[Text] **[Abgarova] Minister, how do you assess the situation that has taken shape in the zone where the peacekeeping forces have been deployed? What guarantees exist for the safe return of the refugees?**

[Nadibaidze] One of the reasons for the delay of the process of the return of the refugees has been the lack of guarantees for their security. At present, following my numerous meetings with the command of the Group of Russian Forces in the Caucasus [GRFC], the Russian Ministry of Defense is taking measures aimed at creating the necessary conditions for guaranteeing the safe return of the refugees. In the very near future, a military unit in the form of a reinforced battalion made up of Russian troops will be deployed in Gali precisely to secure the safe return of the refugees.

[Abgarova] It became known some time ago that structural changes were taking place in the Russian peacekeeping forces and there would be a reduction in the number of servicemen and the withdrawal of heavy equipment....

[Nadibaidze] The point is that the peacekeeping forces have several different tasks. Four battalions that are located in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone (two from the GRFC and two from the territory of Russia) are operating according to a theoretically prescribed strength level. The peacekeeping mission is a new one for the troops and, in this situation, they are now only beginning to accomplish tasks that are unfamiliar to military people. Therefore, adjustments are being made to the strength level that was elaborated, let us say, on paper. For example, it makes no sense to keep the heavy equipment that was provided for in the strength level in the deployment zone. It is possible that it will be replaced by other subunits. This is what is called the implementation of structural changes in the strength level.

[Abgarova] What complaints are being made by the Abkhazian side and why, according to your information, is the process of the return of the refugees being delayed?

[Nadibaidze] I believe the Abkhazian side can have no complaints as the Georgian side is fulfilling all the conditions. These are not complaints but whims. I repeat, we are fulfilling all the points that have been stipulated along with the peacekeeping troops. In particular, these are the control posts at each of which there is a Georgian representative.

[Abgarova] How do you view the future development of the peacekeeping action and to what degree is it guaranteed to succeed?

[Nadibaidze] I believe that the capabilities of the peacekeeping forces are, in principle, limited. However, taking into account the analysis that is being carried out, they will extend their capabilities in the future. Taking into account the future return of the refugees, the plans and tasks of the peacekeepers will undoubtedly be expanded.

[Abgarova] Is it possible to give specific time periods for the return of the refugees, if these have been determined?

[Nadibaidze] Of course they have been determined. I think this will be soon, in a few days time.

[Abgarova] As Russian Deputy Defense Minister G. Kondratyev has stated, it is precisely in the next few days that one can expect extraordinary events regarding the return of the refugees. What kind of events will these be?

[Nadibaidze] What is under discussion is that, before the return of the refugees gets under way, it is necessary to guarantee in reality all conditions for their safety. The extraordinary measures envisage the transfer over a short period of time of a significant number of Russian troops and heavy equipment from a distant region of Russia to the zone of deployment of peacekeeping forces.

[Abgarova] Does this mean that there are currently insufficient peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone?

[Nadibaidze] At the present stage, it means different things. Those peacekeepers who are deployed along the Inguri River are controlling the situation and accomplishing their tasks in this direction. The start of the process of the return of the refugees calls for the redeployment of troops and additional forces.

[Abgarova] The question of the Kodori Gorge is somewhat different. There is a separate agreement on this. According to your information, what is the situation there?

[Nadibaidze] The Kodori Gorge is a strategic route. Possibly, we even underestimate the importance of this area. We have fulfilled all the conditions that have been laid down regarding the withdrawal of troops. As for the Abkhazian illegal armed formations—there is no other name for them as Abkhazia is not a separate state and cannot have its armed forces— the situation there is under control. In order to prevent conflicts, on my request, a subunit of peacekeepers made up of a reinforced platoon has entered [the gorge] from Lata, that is from the Abkhazian side as we can put it, and they are controlling the situation from this direction. In the near future, another reinforced platoon of peacekeeping forces will enter the Azhara Rayon from Mestiya and they will control the other side. In order to prevent any kind of provocation, a decision has been made to control the Kodori Gorge along with the local population. This plan is now being put into practice.

[Abgarova] So, the presence of peacekeeping forces there will be a guarantee of security for the local population in the Kodori Gorge?

[Nadibaidze] Yes, absolutely.

[Abgarova] Minister, you are taking an active part in the peacekeeping process, but how is the organizational development of the Georgian Army proceeding?

[Nadibaidze] In spite of everything, my principal duty, which I am carrying out hourly, is the resolution of issues pertaining to the reorganization of the Georgian Army. In military terminology, there exists the concept of "command and control." Thus, no matter where the defense minister may be, he should command and control the troops. Those plans and programs that were outlined regarding the reorganization of the army are being implemented. All tasks are being controlled by the Main Staff of the Georgian Armed Forces. Not a single measure concerning the reorganization of the republic's Armed Forces, including the fairly complex one of implementing the call-up, has been disrupted. The processes pertaining to the organizational development of the armed forces have not come to a halt; on the contrary, they will intensify in time.

Delegation Leaves for Geneva Talks on Abkhazia

LD3008163494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] A Georgian delegation led by parliament deputy Dzhaba Ioseliani left Tbilisi on Monday night for Geneva where talks will continue on the strained relations between Abkhazia and Georgia, Interfax was told by the spokesman for the Georgian leader, Eduard Shevardnadze.

Well-informed sources in Tbilisi told Interfax that Ioseliani will declare in Geneva an official protest against the "destructive" stand assumed by the Abkhazian side concerning the return of the refugees.

The source said that the Georgian delegation will offer nothing new at the talks. It will insist on offering Abkhazia the status of an autonomy with broader powers within the framework of a single Georgia.

The Abkhazian delegation at the talks will be led by Abkhazian Prime Minister Sokrat Dzhindzholia [name as received]. Russia, the mediator at the talks, will be represented by special envoys Feliks Kovalev and Gennadiy Fedosov.

Refugee Body Issues Abkhaz Casualty Figures

AU3108091194 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 24 Aug 94 p 2

[BS-PRESS report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "Statistics From the Conflict Zone"]

[Text] According to figures from the Gali Rayon Refugee Initiative Group, during the course of the conflict in Gali rayon, 8,500 houses were burned to the ground and destroyed, more than 1,000 people were killed, property was robbed, and several thousand head of cattle belonging to Georgian residents were stolen.

Coupon Hits Record Low Against Ruble

AU3108113794 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 23-24 Aug 94 p 5

[Unattributed article: "A New National Record for the National Bank's National Coupon"]

[Text] The exchange rate of the coupon to the Russian ruble has reached a record low. On 19 August, on the Tbilisi currency market, the value of the Russian ruble rose from 800-900 to 1,000-1,200 coupons. The latest fall in the value of the coupon is due to the appearance on the currency market of a large amount of 30,000-coupon bank notes that have been brought from France. The new notes, just like the 50,000-coupon notes that were brought into circulation two weeks ago, have been printed in accordance with the parliament's 12 trillion coupon credit program.

The exchange rate of the coupon also fell on the interbank currency exchange. On 19 August, during trading, the value of $1 rose by 44,000 points and was worth 1.95 million coupons. The value of the Russian ruble rose by 187 points and was worth 911 coupons.

As National Bank President Nodar Javakhishvili stated, the exchange rate of the coupon will continue to fall. He said that the reason for the fall was the decision by parliament in July to issue an additional credit of 12 trillion coupons. According to him, the devaluation of the coupon is also being aggravated by the fact that banknotes are arriving from France in batches.

As has become known, the Georgian authorities are planning to declare the coupon the sole means of payment in the very near future. On 18 August, at a session of the city administration, Kutaisi Mayor Temur Shashiashvili stated: "Eduard Shevardnadze has decided to make the coupon the sole means of payment." Temur Shashiashvili informed those present about Eduard Shevardnadze's plan according to which strict measures are to be taken to bring the coupon back into circulation. The circulation of foreign currencies on Georgian territory is to be prohibited. According to Shashiashvili, these measures should be carried out following the example of Kutaisi.

It should be pointed out that the coupon enjoys the same popularity in Kutaisi as in other Georgian cities. In this respect, it is significant that Ajaria has officially rejected the coupon. The autonomous republic's leadership calls this the "Ajarian experiment."

Russian MFA Comment on Abkhaz-Tatarstan Treaty

AU3008125094 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 26 Aug 94 p 1

["Statement by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs" issued in Moscow on 21 August]

[Text] On 17 August 1994, the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of Tatarstan and the Republic of Abkhazia was signed in Kazan.

The treaty directly concerns questions pertaining to Russia's foreign policy and international relations that, on the basis of Article 71 of the Russian Federation Constitution, are within its jurisdiction. In accordance with the Treaty Between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan "on the Restriction of Subjects of Jurisdiction and the Mutual Delegation of Powers Between the Bodies of State Power of the Russian Federation and the Bodies of State Power of the Republic of Tatarstan," the republic's bodies of state power can establish relations with foreign states and conclude agreements with them without contradicting the Constitution and the Russian Federation's international obligations.

The signing by Tatarstan of a treaty with Abkhazia runs counter to the obligations of the Russian Federation proceeding from the Treaty Between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia on Friendship, Good-Neighborly Relations, and Cooperation of 3 February 1994.

Russia consistently supports the territorial integrity of Georgia.

We favor friendship and cooperation between peoples inhabiting Russia and Georgia and the rendering of economic and other help to the long-suffering population of Abkhazia that has endured the war. However, it is impermissible to introduce political ambitions into these relations.

Moscow, 21 August 1994.

New Measures on Emergency Power Consumption

LD3008163194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1510 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] As of 1 September, emergency measures for power consumption in all spheres of national industry will become effective throughout Georgia. Revaz Arveladze, the head of state's personal envoy and chief state adviser on fuel and power complexes, and also the head of the institute of power engineering, will participate in Saturday's program of Itogi Nedeli [Weekly Summary]. He will comment in detail on the head of state's new decree. Here is an excerpt from Revaz Arveladze's address.

[Begin Arveladze recording] I would like everyone to adhere strictly to the limits set for electricity and power consumption. I am not threatening anyone; however, anyone who does not comply with these limits will face the most severe punishment. Not only the heads of departments and enterprises will be punished but also authorities in towns and rayons because local authorities have been made responsible. They will have to adhere to the limits, and secure fuel supplies, reserves, and energy sources. They must think about the future and make plans for power supplies, as well as prepare plans for towns and rayons. Therefore, I ask them to be very careful and use the remaining time for preparation. This winter will be the most severe that we have ever had, but I am sure it will be the last severe winter and that improvements will follow next year. [end recording]

Authorities Mount Second Stage of Fight Against Crime

LD3008165294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The second stage of a drive against crime—announced last week by the Georgian Interior Minister Shota Kviraia—has begun in the republic. A large-scale operation against organized crime, corruption, the mafia, and drug traffickers was put into effect in all towns and districts today. More than 110 firearms, ammunition, 10 stolen cars, and up to 100 kg of drugs were seized. Over 50 people were detained for selling and using them. Twenty-five criminals who had been on the run were arrested. They included two who had been sought by the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in connection with especially serious crimes.

Noting the police success, the Georgian interior minister regretted that he was not receiving proper support from the republican leadership and parliament. He believes that the Georgian police are getting better support from the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Transcaucasus military district.

Estonia

Envoy Signs NATO 'Partnership' 'Confidentiality Accord'

WS3008123894 Tallinn BNS in English 1102 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 30, BNS—On Monday, the Estonian Ambassador in Brussels Clyde Kull signed the confidentiality accord included in the Partnership for Peace cooperation program between NATO and Estonia, the foreign ministry press service told BNS.

The agreement is to guarantee confidentiality of info exchange between the member countries. Each of the NATO partnership countries will sign it separately. The Estonian Government decided July 21 to consent to the accord, and authorized Kull to sign it.

The confidentiality agreement is a document "on management and administrative organization between NATO and the cooperation partners," Kull told BNS.

Although Estonia already signed the frame document of the NATO peace program on February 3, 1994, the signing of the Individual Partnership Program (IPP) is postponed to September.

A NATO committee has examined Estonia's explanatory letter of expectations and suggestions about the partnership, and explained its potentials to answer them.

"Those wishes and possibilities are presently being analysed in the Estonian foreign and defense ministries, as well as in NATO," said Kull.

Estonia handed the Partnership for Peace presentation document over to NATO on July 11. The document consists of two parts. The first part centers on general political concepts in cooperation with NATO. Estonia assumes responsibility to participate in all the NATO commissions. The second part of the document deals with cooperation in info exchange, forming the Baltic peacekeeping battalion, and joint maneuvers. The presentation document also specifies the member country's suggestions and possibilities for cooperation, which form the basis for individual partnership.

Premier Discusses Problems of Disputed Border Area

LD2608144494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Mart Laar had a meeting on Toompea [seat of government] with Juri Adams, a Riigikogu member; Tiit Riismaa, chairman of the government commission on border areas; and Juri Vaidla, chief elder of the Setu Congress's committee of elders. They discussed the formation of a Petserimaa mission which would help to resolve problems for the residents of Petserimaa on either side of the [Estonian-Russian] control line. They discussed possibilities for the introduction of a system of simplified border crossings as soon as possible. The main obstacle so far has been Russia's unwillingness to conclude any temporary agreement.

Defense Minister on Plans for Returned Paldiski Base

WS3108094694 Tallinn BNS in English 1606 GMT 30 August 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 30, BNS—Representatives of both the Estonian and the Russian side have signed acts on the handover to Estonia of the former Russian nuclear submarine training center in Paldiski. The Paldiski commandant's office told BNS the acts were signed Aug. 23.

Defense Minister Enn Tupp and Maj. Gen. Aleksander Einseln, the chief of the Baltic state's defense forces, reached last week agreement on the future of the Paldiski facilities.

Tupp said that, to begin with, the newly established Estonian Peacekeeping Company will be located in the buildings. In an interview with BNS, he didn't rule out that in the future the buildings will house Estonia's military educational institutions. The idea might be realized in three years, he thought.

The Paldiski training center includes two nuclear reactors that were stopped in 1989. They are still under Russian guard. Under the Estonian-Russian agreement, Russia is to hand over the reactor buildings to Estonia by Sept. 30, 1995.

Latvia

Ulmanis, Birkavs Hold Talks With Swedish Foreign Minister

LD3008134794 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Swedish Foreign Minister Baroness Margaretha af Ugglas was in Riga today for a one-day visit. She met Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis, Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, and members of parliament from the Saeima Foreign Affairs Commission. Before departing Riga airport, af Ugglas also briefly meet Latvian legionaries who visited Sweden at her invitation in the spring.

Issues related to the withdrawal of the Russian army from our state were mainly discussed at talks between the Swedish foreign minister and Latvian politicians.

Birkavs Reviews Talks

LD3008215294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Before we continue with the visit of the Swedish foreign minister to Latvia, let us add that we will return to the survey of the package of agreements. However, regarding the course of action, it was described by Premier Valdis Birkavs like this:

[Begin Birkavs recording] The big event of the departure of the Russian army does not mean that all problems have been solved. And our main talks did indeed concern that problem: That is, what worries me, and in what direction foreign policy activity should go.

First, the fact that only 10 officers remaining officially in Latvia today does not mean that there are not 1,000 demobilized officers here, moreover, they are those who, according to the agreement with Russia, ought to be leaving with the Russian army. Unfortunately this issue is not to be settled by the night of 31 August, so we need international assistance, and the international community must be informed that they are here, and that they must be taken out; moreover, without reservation.

Second, among the 22,000 military pensioners there are persons who have not earned this military pensioner's status, and this list is not in order. So at least one can expect from Russia a certain revision of this list. But what interests us is having on this list those people who are receiving a military pension and have received it before 28 January 1992—that is the deadline after which any demobilized person is illegal and after which any military pensioner is illegal. So first of all we must establish order in this sphere, and (?for) that, international support, just as with the withdrawal of the Russian army. That is why the greater part of our talks dealt with that.

For the rest of our talks we discussed the new situation in the Baltic region, about possible Swedish assistance in bringing in the citizenship law, mainly concerning language training. We also talked, of course, about economic cooperation. In a word, this was a businesslike, good meeting, as a result of which Sweden did not hand over a suitcase of money containing 2 million, but did guarantee that that money will be received. [end recording]

af Ugglas Notes Importance of Russian Withdrawal

LD3008184694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia is a very important event, not only for the development of Latvia's security and stability but also for the Baltic region and all of Europe, Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas acknowledged at a news conference today. The minister had arrived in Latvia on a one-day visit to congratulate the Latvian Government and people on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia. She affirmed that Sweden will continue to give support to Latvia.

Af Ugglas today met Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis, Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, and representatives of the Saeima Foreign Affairs Commission. This is how Birkavs assessed the visit by the head of the Swedish Foreign Ministry:

[Begin Birkavs recording] The visit is very timely, but the big event of the departure of the Russian Army does not mean that all problems have been solved. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Birkavs Attends Nordic, Baltic Meeting in Vilnius

LD3008194394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] In order to take part in the so-called '3 plus 5' conference of foreign ministers of the Nordic and Baltic countries at Palanga Lithuania, the Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, and Gunars Meierovics, minister of state for Nordic and Baltic affairs went there today. Also taking part in the talks at Palanga are the heads of foreign affairs of Lithuania, Estonia, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland, and Sweden. Speaking about the meeting is Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs:

[Begin Birkavs recording] This is the formula: 5 plus 3—the five Nordic countries plus the three Baltic countries. This is the first meeting of its kind in the Baltic countries. Basically, what will be talked about will be the situation in the Baltic and Nordic region after the withdrawal of the Russian Army. This must be an internationally current affair, and this evening, of course, we will have a meeting among ourselves, between the three Baltic countries, at which we will discuss issues common to us: Customs, which is very important for our integration into Europe, to get the associate status in the European Union; we will talk about the future development of the Baltic battalion—about those issues that are constantly on the agenda, and unfortunately are not being quickly and effectively enough settled. [end recording]

Lithuania

Foreign Ministry Statement on Chechnya

LD3008154894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1340 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The press and information department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs disseminated a statement issued by the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that reads:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania is carefully following the progress of political events in Chechnya and points out with concern that the internal political situation there presents a threat to the lives and security of the people. An attempt to resolve mutual differences by means of armed conflict increases instability in the region and destabilizes the situation in the entire region of North Caucasus.

Statements made by some Lithuanian political forces and individual politicians in support of one of the confronting sides in Chechnya can be regarded only as interference in the internal affairs of Chechnya and, thus, further increases the conflict.

Attempts are made by these political forces in Lithuania to influence the foreign policy decisions of the Republic of Lithuania. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is of the opinion that the people of Chechnya will resolve the arising conflicts through a political dialogue and not by means of military conflict, and also without interference from Lithuania.

Concerning the actions of some Lithuanian politicians who are aiming to take over the functions of the official Lithuanian authorities while undertaking direct and indirect obligations or influencing the decisions of Lithuanian foreign policy in some other way, these are irresponsible and shortsighted.

While pursuing its foreign policy, the Lithuanian Government will first be guided by the interests of the Lithuanian state, the statement made by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry reads.

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